TOKYOPOP
DOLL
MITSUKAZU MIHARA

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OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

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In these gripping tales that straddle the line between life and death, a doll gives a pregnant woman a lesson in motherhood; a remodeller redesigns dolls as requested by their owners; a manager replaces workers with dolls; and a lonely disposal man learns the value of life from a doll. With every passing day, dolls become more and more human-like...and humans learn a harsh lesson in what it means to be truly alive.

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MITSUKAZU MIHARA
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Doll Volume 4

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Like any successful company, the SG Corporation doesn't rest on its laurels. It's always working to develop newer, more diverse, and more sophisticated Dolls. Kaoru and Motohiko Kirishima, two pioneers of Doll development, were the co-creators of the prototype "Sterol-2" Doll. With Kaoru as the project leader and Motohiko as the research assistant, the Sterol-2 was to be the most advanced

Doll ever created, capable of preserving the world's greatest minds...even after death. To Motohiko, the Sterol-2 Doll was also to be the newly married couple's first "baby."

Dolls are human-like androids manufactured by the SG Corporation. A Doll can fulfill many varied needs and serve any number of purposes, including personal assistant, secretary, cook, maid, laborer, companion, lover...and, of course, status symbol.

There are others who push the boundaries of Doll development...though in a much less official capacity. "Remodellers" are people who illegally alter Dolls. Sometimes, people want Dolls that are either unavailable... or unaffordable... and that's where the Remodellers come in. Special orders are their specialty... though, like any illegal deals, there are no receipts and absolutely no returns.

$10 MECHANICAL TRANSPLANTS, REAL SKIN AND HAIR GRAFTS, A WHOLE NEW NERVOUS SYSTEM AND AN AI UPGRADE
PLUS ONE OR TWO LITTLE REFINEMENTS HERE AND THERE, OPTIONAL HUMAN EXTRAS. IF YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN

Like most machines, Dolls were created to make humanity's existence better or easier in some way. However, the true test of any device's benefits is not the intent of the designers...but rather the actions of the users.

Well into the development of the Sterol-2, Kaoru developed a mysterious, degenerative mental condition with symptoms that are similar to Alzheimer's disease. Despite access to the top doctors in Japan's foremost neural hospital, nothing could be done to help Kaoru's condition.

Desperate for some way to save his brilliant wife, Motohiko used the Sterol-2 prototype to try to house a copy of Kaoru's mind... though he quickly realized the error of his ways. Soon afterward, Motohiko resigned from the SG Corporation to take care of Kaoru full-time. Leaving all the project notes so that others could pick up where he and Kaoru left off, Motohiko stipulated that no part of their work could be used to create likenesses of actual people...and that no human memories would be implanted into a Doll.

DOLL 4

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THE CLICK-CLACK OF HEELS IS VERY LOUD.
MY HEAD ACHE WITH EVERY TORTURED STEP.
BUT I'M NOT WEARING THEM FOR ME.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND, HARUKA, IF MY WIFE FOUND OUT YOU WERE HAVING MY BABY SHE WOULD NEVER AGREE TO A DIVORCE
SHE'S... A VERY STRONG-WILLED WOMAN!
I LOVE YOU, HARUKA. I WANT US TO GET MARRIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BUT...
TRUST ME, IT'S THE RIGHT--THE ONLY--THING TO DO
I'M SUFFERING TOO, HARUKA...
YES OF COURSE

I'M WEARING THEM FOR HIM.

18. life

THERE SHE IS!
GET UP HERE! HURRY!
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
CLICK
CLACK
HEY! HEY!
Oh-ahh!
SOMEONE... ANYONE... STOP HER!

VRUM!
VRUM!
RIGHT I'LL STAY ON HER TAIL.
YOU TAKE THE ELEVATOR-- CUT HER OFF ON THE FIFTH FLOOR

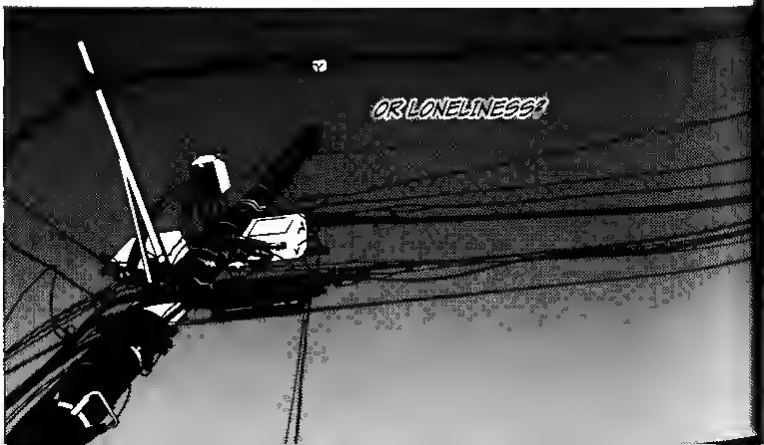
NO. I'M SURE.
MMM, WELL...
.. THIS ISN'T A DECISION YOU SHOULD RUSH. PLEASE, THINK ABOUT IT SOME MORE.
I WON'T REGRET IT.

SORRY TO DROP IN LIKE THAT!
TEN WEEKS INTO THE PREGNANCY, AND YOUR SCAN IS SHOWING A HEALTHY FETUS.
BUT I TOLD YOU.
..I'M NOT HAVING THIS BABY.

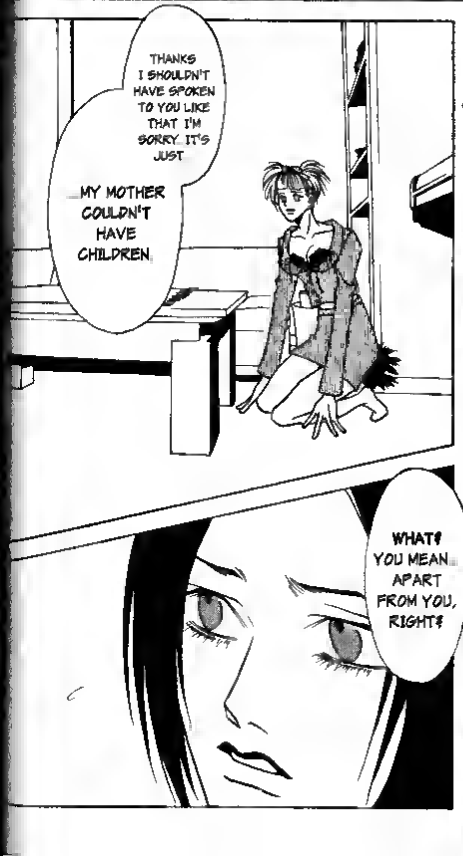
YOU'RE VERY KIND. NOT MANY PEOPLE WOULD HAVE STOPPED— LET ALONE HELPED ME HOME.
I'M ALL RIGHT NOW. THANK YOU
IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT MAYBE YOU'RE WORKING TOO HARD.
IT'S NOT THAT. I..
BLUURGH!
HLLP!
EXCUSE ME...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I-I THOUGHT IT WAS THEM!
IT'S JUST A CAT.
WH--?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
THEM? ARE YOU IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?
WHAT? NO!
...HAVING AN ABORTION...
I'M PREGNANT IT'S JUST MORNING SICKNESS
IT WON'T BE FOR LONG I'M...
THAT'S A LIFE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! AND WHAT? YOU'VE JUST DECIDED YOU DON'T WANT IT, NO BIG DEAL?
KRSH!
HUH?!
WAIT YOU WERE RIGHT... IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MY SITUATION, IT'S...

NO I-I'M NOT HER NATURAL CHILD
I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY I ALLOWED HER TO STAY. PITY?


OR LONELINESS?

.....

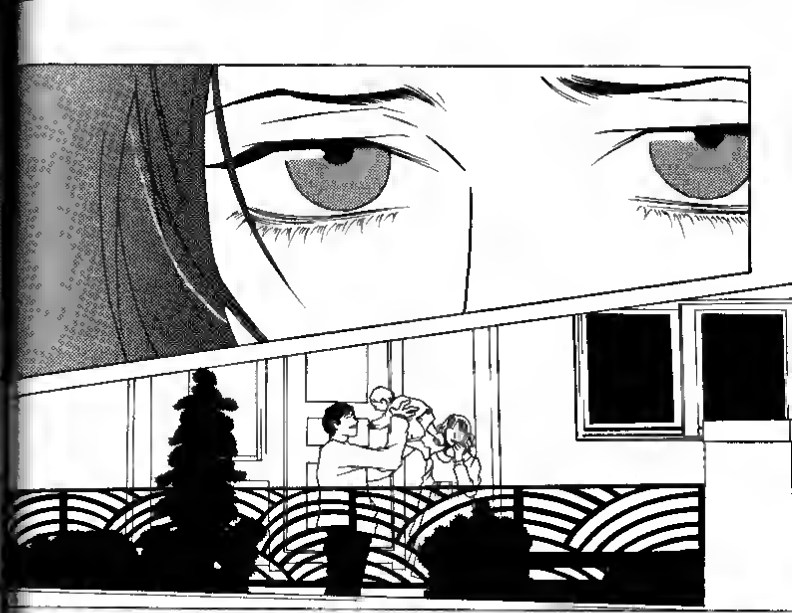

THANKS I SHOULDN'T HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU LIKE THAT I'M SORRY. IT'S JUST
MY MOTHER COULDN'T HAVE CHILDREN.
WHAT? YOU MEAN APART FROM YOU, RIGHT?

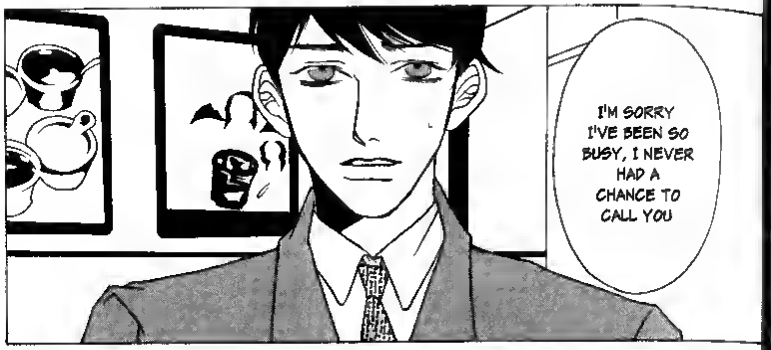
REALLY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN SEEING AS HOW YOU HELPED ME, YOU CAN STAY HERE FOR A WHILE
HH IT'S OKAY.

OH!

DRT-
DRT.
DRT-
DRT.
OKAY.
BYE..
I'M GOING
OUT.
I'LL LOCK
THE DOOR
BEHIND
ME

YOU WERE SO LONG
I WAS STARTING TO WOR--

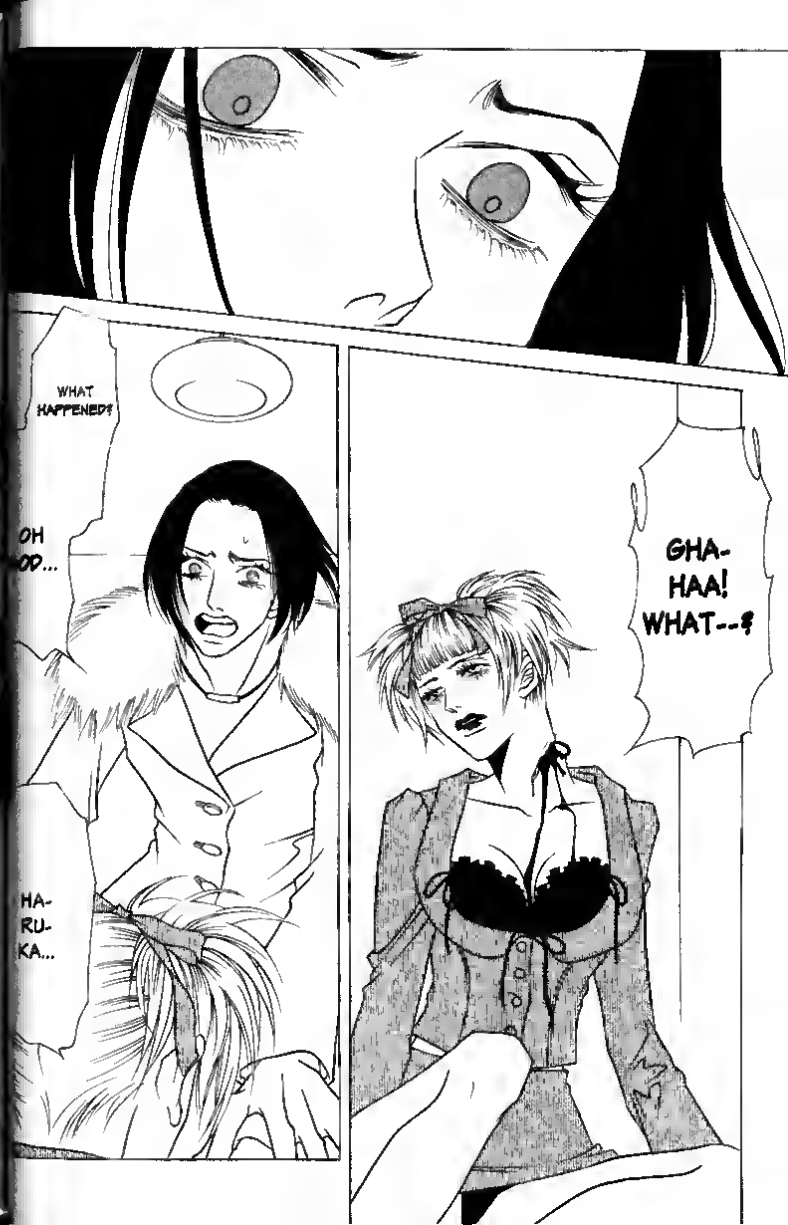




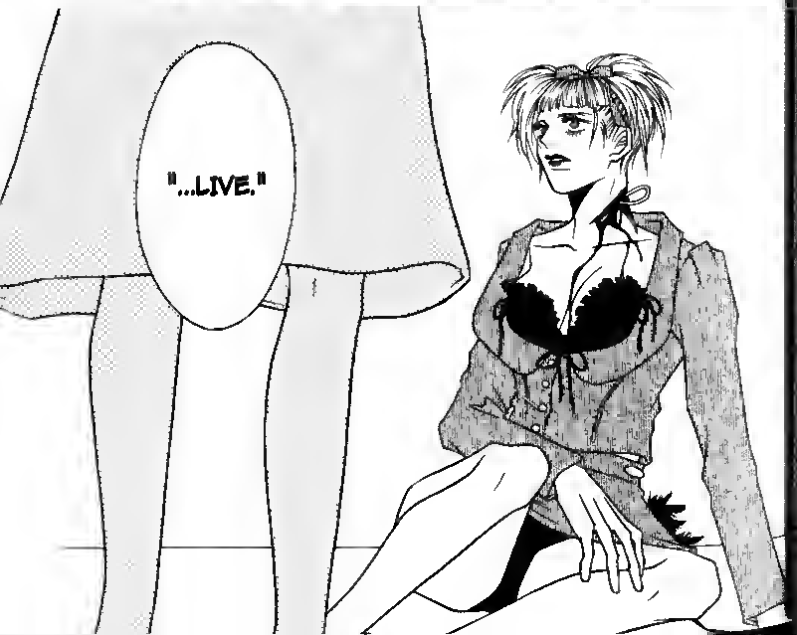
HE ALREADY HAD A BABY. HE JUST DIDN'T WANT MINE.

HUH?
KLIK!
WHY DID YOU LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN?
ARE YOU--?
HARUKA?
RIGHT? SURE WHATEVER YOU WANT HARUKA.. YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU
I LOVED YOU. WITH ALL MY HEART.
GOODBYE

FRZT!
ZV
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE HURT, YOU'RE--
..SORRY TO SHOCK YOU I MUST LOOK A FRIGHT.
A DOLL!
..COULDN'T HAVE A BABY, SO SHE, RAISED A DOLL INSTEAD.
ILLEGALLY REMODELLED ALMOST
HUMAN MY MOTH--MY MASTER


WHAT HAPPENED?
OH OO...
HA-RU-KA...
GHA-HAA! WHAT--?

AT THE END...
...MOM GAVE ME AN ORDER.
PLEASE...
DEAR CHILD...
AN... ORDER?


"...LIVE."

SHE... LOVED ME SO... SO MUCH. BUT... SHE DIED. SUDDENLY.
I WAS ALONE.

SO YOU RAN? BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE KIL-- SCRAPPED

MY FATE WAS SEALED. I WAS TO BE.. SCRAPPED. NO RIGHTS, NO REPRIEVE.

PLEASE...
LIVE.
WELL? HAVE YOU MADE YOUR DECISION?

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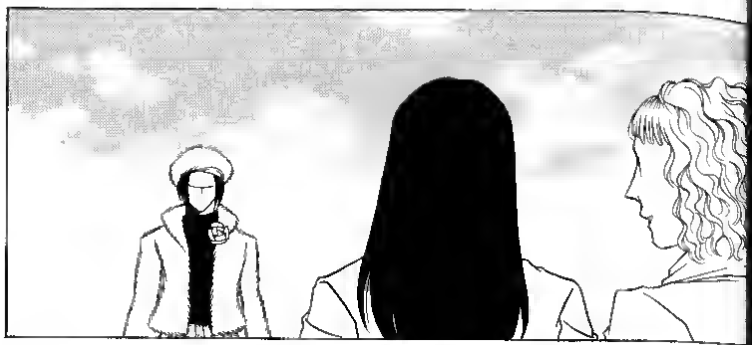
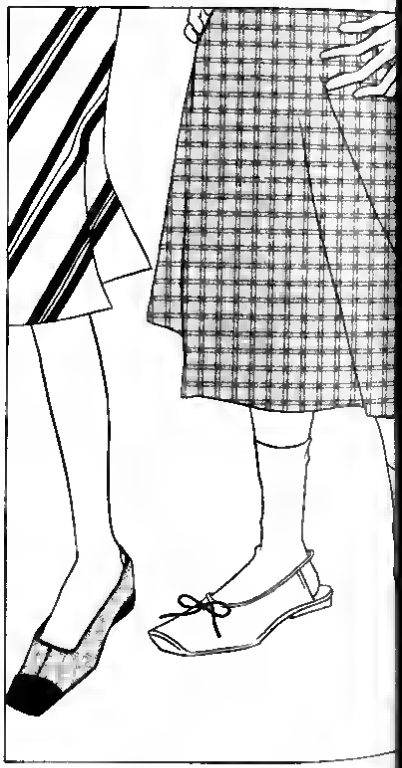
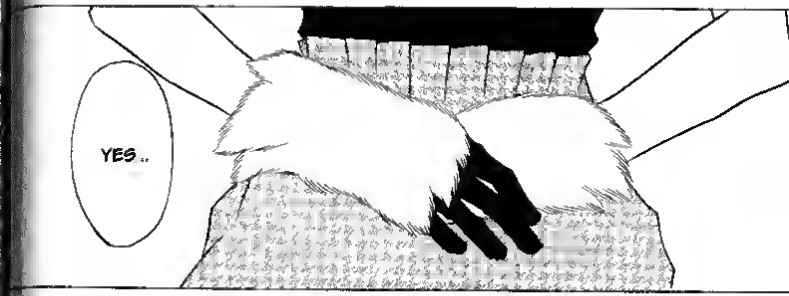
L--



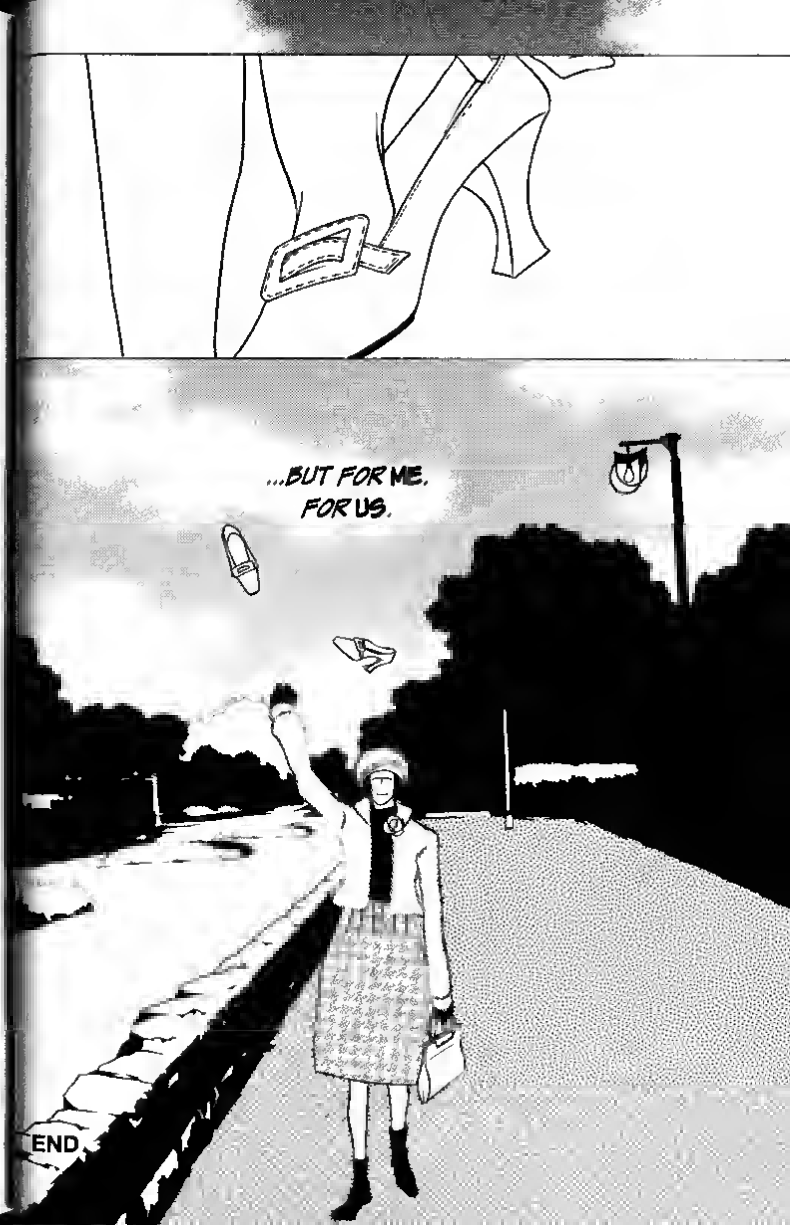
YOU'RE GOING
TO LIVE
NOT FOR HIM..




YES ..

...I WANT
THIS
BABY!

LIST 19



ガ
WE'VE EVEN GOT A GARDEN PERFECT FOR THE KIDS TO PLAY IN.
KIDS?
EVERY TIME THAT TRAIN GOES PAST IT SHAKES THE WHOLE HOUSE! CAN'T WE MOVE?
WHAT? AND LOSE THIS PRIME SPOT IN DOWNTOWN TOKYO? NO WAY.
YOU KNOW FULL WELL I CAN'T HAVE CHILDREN
THE DOCTORS SAID...
I KNOW WHAT THE DOCTORS SAID, BUT... WE MUSTN'T GIVE UP HOPE.

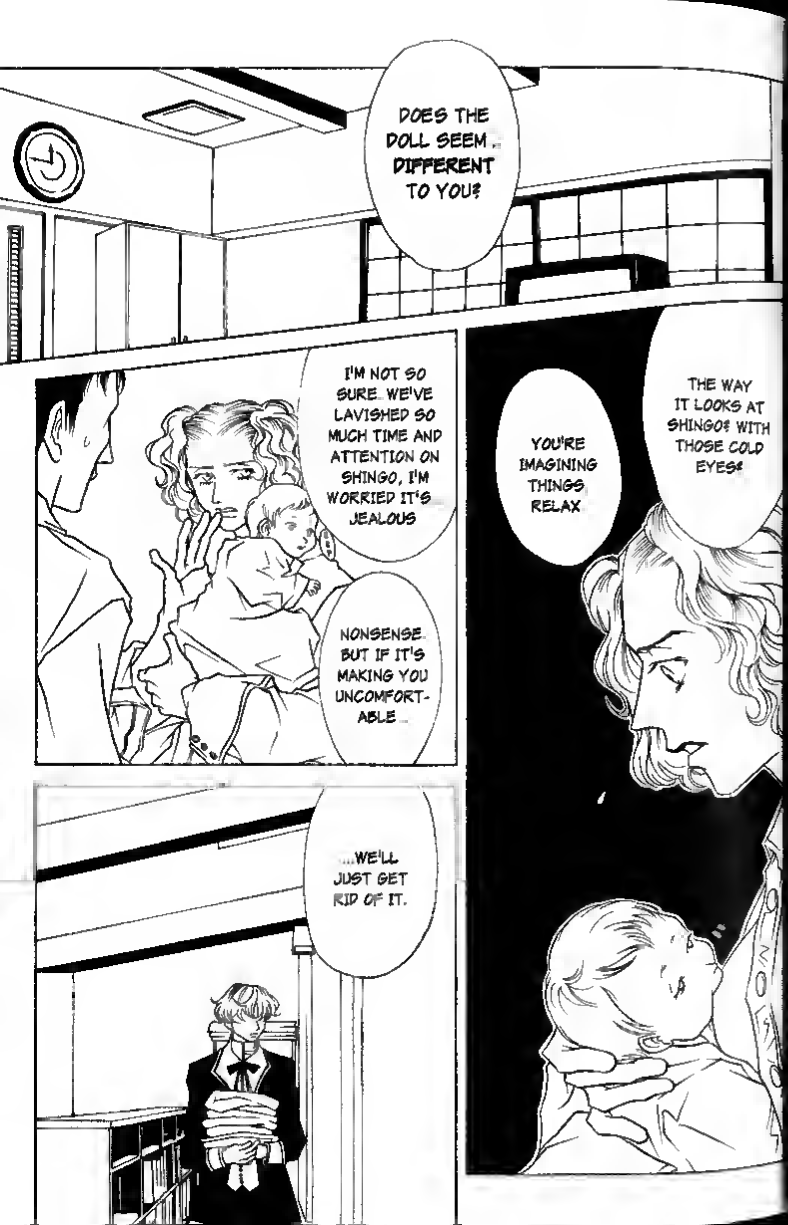
I DON'T GET IT.
OH, IT'S MUCH MORE THAN THAT, SHINGO IT'S YOUR GOOD LUCK CHARM, A KEEPSAKE
タ
タ
ン
THIS THING YOU GAVE ME. YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME TO LOOK AFTER IT, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT BUT. WELL, IT'S
.. JUST A HUNK 'A METAL

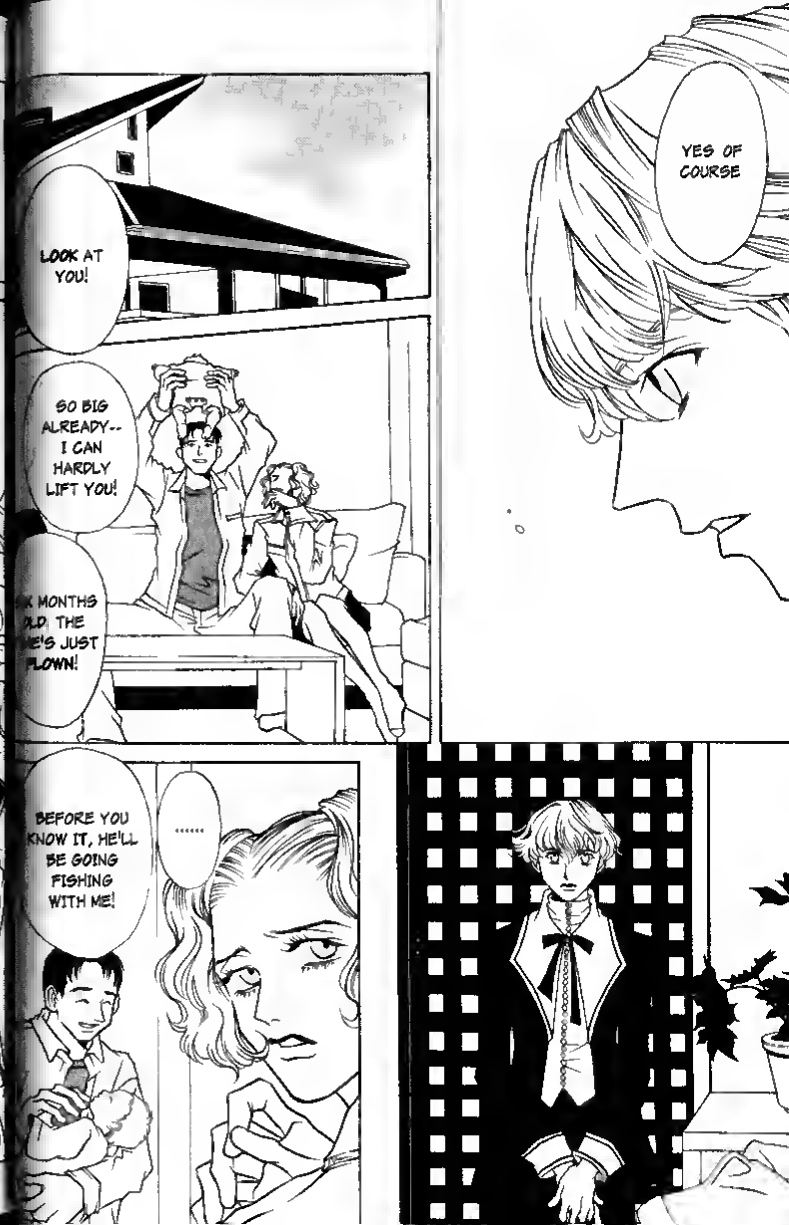
19. talisman

I'M A LITTLE STUNNED MYSELF, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT...
YOU'RE PREGNANT!
THAT'S... FANTASTIC! I-I CAN'T QUITE TAKE IT IN!
YOU HEAR THAT, SON?
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A BABY BROTHER!
IF IT'S A BOY WE CAN'T BE SURE

WE'LL KEEP TRYING
AND IN THE MEANTIME, WELL... WE HAVE A SON. WE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT.
AND WE LOVE HIM. WE'LL ALWAYS LOVE HIM. AND HE... LOVES US!
YES.
I LOVE YOU, MOTHER. I LOVE YOU, FATHER

うあーんちー
WHAT... ARE YOU DOING WITH HIM?
WELL.. DON'T. YOU.. HAVE ENOUGH TO DO AS IT IS. I'LL SEE TO SHINGO
DOING? HE WAS CRYING I WAS JUST SOOTHING HIM.
うぇーん
LOOK AT HIM! HE'S PERFECT.
OUR SON R REAL SON! TO THINK.. I ALMOST GAVE UP HOPE
EXCUSE ME MOTHER, FATHER.
YOUR PPER IS ETTING COLD
IRE JUST AR IT AY.


DOES THE DOLL SEEM DIFFERENT TO YOU?
I'M NOT SO SURE. WE'VE LAVISHED SO MUCH TIME AND ATTENTION ON SHINGO, I'M WORRIED IT'S JEALOUS
NONSENSE. BUT IF IT'S MAKING YOU UNCOMFORTABLE...
...WE'LL JUST GET RID OF IT.
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS. RELAX
THE WAY IT LOOKS AT SHINGO! WITH THOSE COLD EYES!

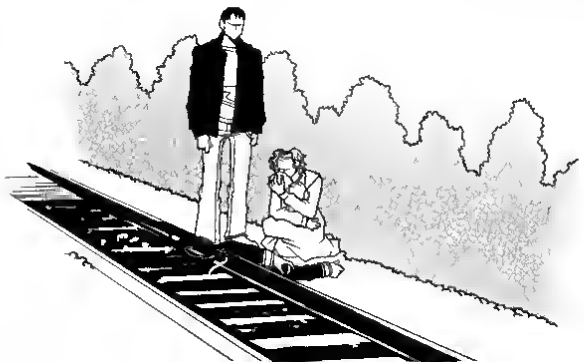

LOOK AT YOU!
SO BIG ALREADY-- I CAN HARDLY LIFT YOU!
K MONTHS LD. THE E'S JUST FLOWN!
YES OF COURSE
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, HE'LL BE GOING FISHING WITH ME!
.....

AFTER ALL, WE HAVE A FLESH AND BLOOD SON NOW
DARLING— ARE YOU READY? WE'RE LATE
THAT NOISE! YOU'D THINK I'D BE USED TO IT BY--
NO!
TKT
TKT
TKT
TAKKATTA
TAKKATTA

--KILLED OUR SON!
I SAW HIM DO IT!
NO. HE WOULDN'T... HE JUST WOULDN'T.
I'M TELLING YOU HE MURDERED OUR--
OH GOD! OH GOD!
THE.. DOLL..TOOK SHINGO TO THE TRACKS HE...
WHAT IS IT? WHAT?
KH- KH--
WAH!
WAAH!
WAH!
WAAH!

10905
SHINGOOOO!

THE DOLL'S BODY
WAS DRAGGED FOR
NEARLY SIX KILOMETERS.
ALL WE FOUND...



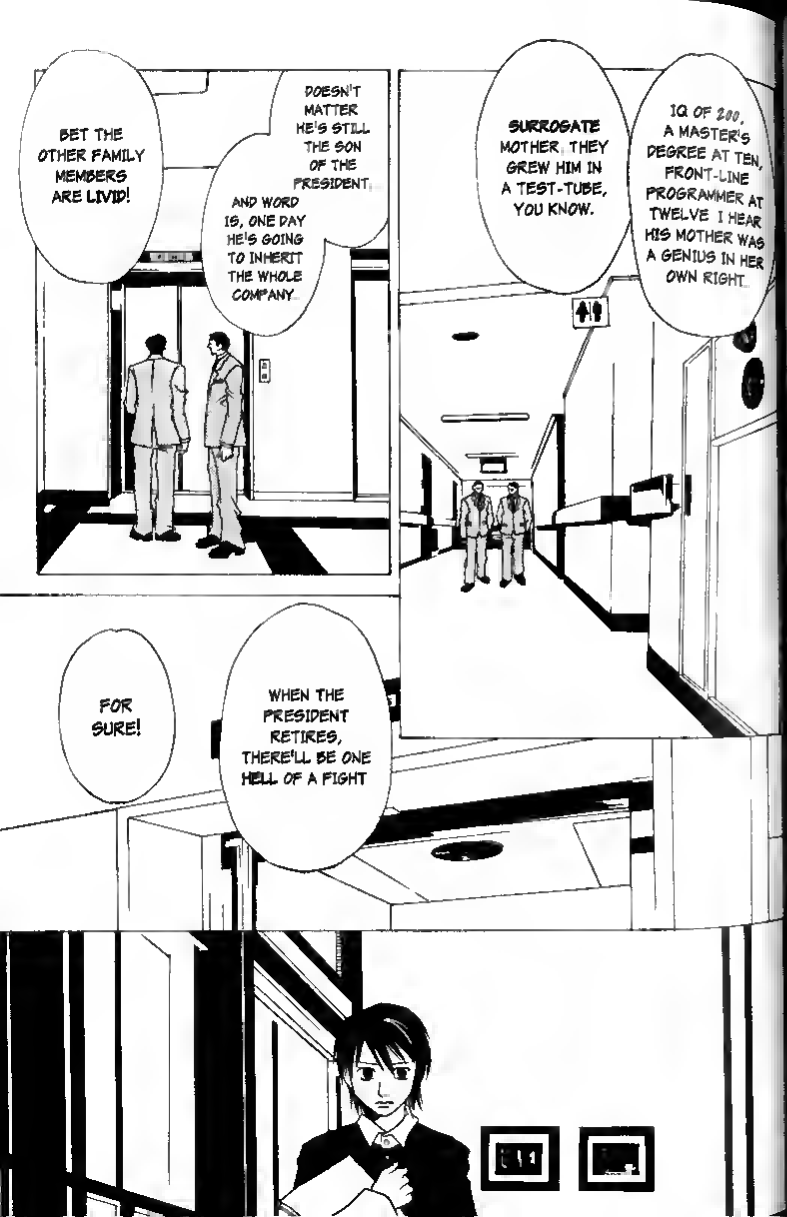
...WAS ONE TINY COG.

20. remodeller

HEH...
NOW THAT... IS A STORY...

I THOUGHT ONLY I HAD THE NECESSARY KNOW-HOW TO RE-WRITE THESE SG CODES
GOT TO ADMIT, THEY'RE GOOD.
IT'S NOT JUST A NAME... IT'S A CHALLENGE
PSYCHO CANDY? WHAT KIND OF NAME IS THAT?

WHOEVER IT IS, THEY KNOW ME. OR AT LEAST MY WORK.
AND THEY'RE TRYING TO OUTCLASS ME.
YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU HOW YOU GOT INTO ALL THIS—
MAYBE IT'S SOMEONE WHO KNOWS YOU.. SOMEONE FROM YOUR PAST?

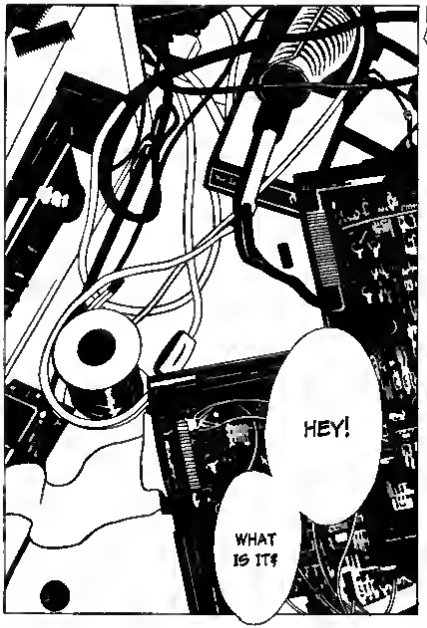

BET THE OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS ARE LIVID!
DOESN'T MATTER HE'S STILL THE SON OF THE PRESIDENT.
AND WORD IS, ONE DAY HE'S GOING TO INHERIT THE WHOLE COMPANY.
SURROGATE MOTHER. THEY GREW HIM IN A TEST-TUBE, YOU KNOW.
IQ OF 200, A MASTER'S DEGREE AT TEN, FRONT-LINE PROGRAMMER AT TWELVE. I HEAR HIS MOTHER WAS A GENIUS IN HER OWN RIGHT.
FOR SURE!
WHEN THE PRESIDENT RETIRES, THERE'LL BE ONE HELL OF A FIGHT

HN.
HEY! ISN'T THAT A DATANET-9 PROGRAM? I HEARD IT CAN'T BE HACKED!
MM. ARRANGE A CAR, WILL YOU
SIR, DON'T FORGET YOU HAVE A 7PM DINNER APPOINTMENT WITH THE CEO OF TSUSHIMA SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
NO SUCH THING. AND ANYWAY, THE SECURITY FIREWALLS ON THE DN9 ARE FULL OF CODING BUGS. GETTING IN IS... CHILD'S PLAY.
ALL YOU NEED IS BASIC ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE AND AN INVASIVE VIRAL SPIKE.
I'M TELLING YOU, THE KID'S A GENIUS!

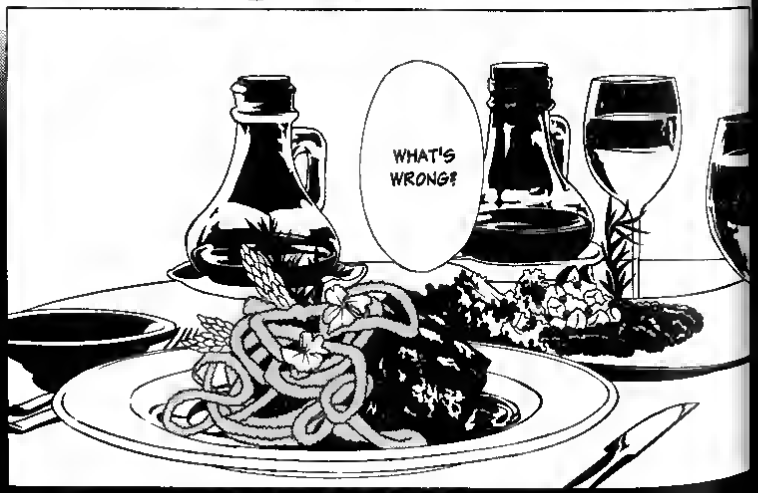
I HAVE PREPARED SOME TEA FOR YOU PLEASE...
YOU MUST EAT.
FINE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MASTER?
BETTER NOT LET ANYONE AROUND HERE SEE YOU BEING NICE TO ME. YOU'LL BE PUNISHED
I DON'T CARE.
ヒル
HEH HEH HEH!
ヒ〃
YES, MOTHER...
SANAE! HITOSHI! COME HERE...
GO AND WASH YOUR HANDS BEFORE TEA. THEY'RE FILTHY.

WHO--?
IT'S PSYCHO CANDY, SILLY. DID YOU GET IT?
SURE...
... BYE!
WAIT!
NO WAY! AND ANYWAY-- THERE'S NO SUCH LIST!
I WANT YOUR LIST. YOUR CUSTOMER LIST MIGHT AS WELL. JUST HAND IT OVER. IT'LL BE QUICKER, LESS PAINFUL. ♡

HEY
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ANSWER THE PHONE?
RIGHT, FINE. I'LL GET IT.
IT'S ME. DID YOU GET MY LOVE LETTER?
YEAH?
WHAT A SURPRISE. IT'S FOR YOU.

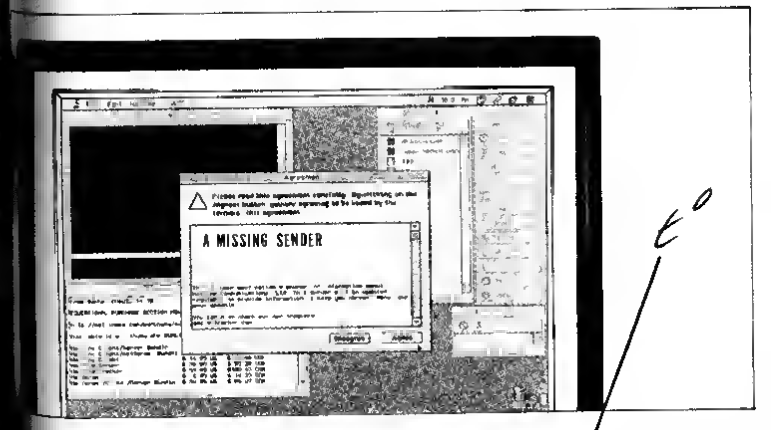

HEY!
WHAT IS IT?

BLAST!


WHAT'S WRONG?

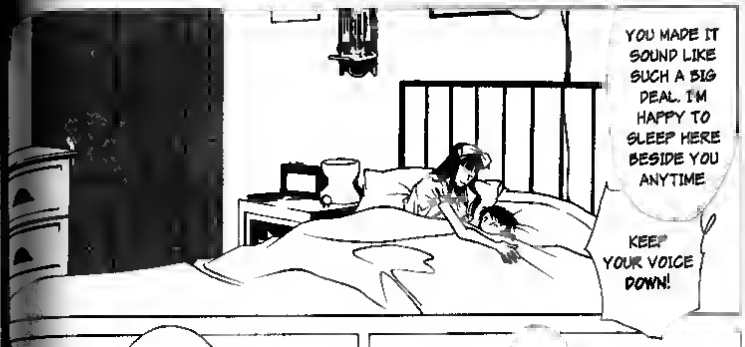
I'LL BE OVER TO PICK IT UP SOON BYE FOR NOW. ♪

OH, I THINK THERE IS I KNOW THERE IS ♡
WHAT? DON'T--


A MISSING SENDER

DOLL..
...I NEED YOU TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME
WHUULF!
MASTER?
SANAE AND HITOSHI HAVE ALREADY FINISHED THEIRS. WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SO DIFFICULT?
I COOKED THAT FISH ESPECIALLY FOR YOU!
EAT IT UP, ICHIRO

STREET NAME: REMODELLER. REAL NAME...
...UNKNOWN.
KNOWN ACCOMPLICES: ONE DOLL. FORMER SEX MODEL
BASE OF OPERATIONS: NO FIXED ABODE. KEEPS MOVING ALL THE TIME. SO NEITHER THE COPS NOR THE SG CORP CAN TRACK HIM.


YOU MADE IT SOUND LIKE SUCH A BIG DEAL. I'M HAPPY TO SLEEP HERE BESIDE YOU ANYTIME.
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!

SHH. GO TO SLEEP. I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU WAKE UP...
WEIRD.
I THOUGHT A DOLL WOULD BE COLD. BUT YOU'RE WARMER THAN ANY HUMAN BEING I'VE KNOWN.

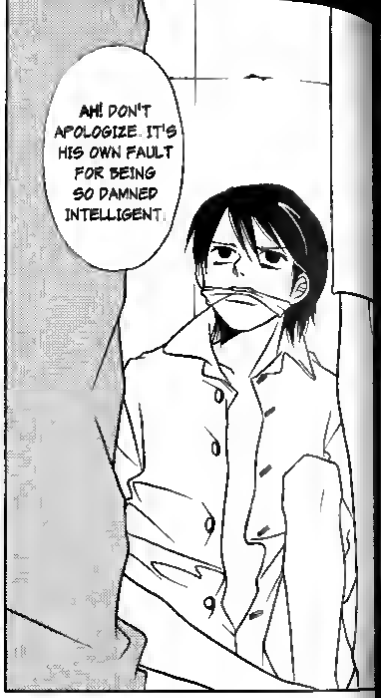
.....
Got what I need.
Thanks and ciao.
カバッ
THAT
BASTARD!
.....

ピンポーン ピンポン
OKAY, OKAY! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO REMIND YOU... TAKE YOUR KEY WITH--
I KNOW YOUR SECRET, DOLL YOU ARE THE LIST...

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
HITOSHI IS HIS REAL GRANDSON HE SHOULD BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT! WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
ICHIRO IS MY SUCCESSOR. YOU'LL DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO HELP HIM IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS
UNDERSTOOD?
BUT WHAT? WHAT?
RIGHT! WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
WE CAN'T LET THAT LITTLE FREAK INHERIT EVERYTHING!
WAIT! I'VE GOT IT...
THINK!

I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT...
HE'S NOT EVEN YOUR REAL GRANDSON. YOU NEVER EVEN MET HIM BEFORE NOW!
NO...YOU CAN'T DO THAT. YOU CAN'T!
AS OF TOMORROW, I'M OFFICIALLY STEPPING DOWN. ICHIRO HERE...
...WILL SUCCEED ME ONE WEEK LATER. AS WE SPEAK, MY LAWYER IS HAVING THE PAPERWORK DRAWN UP.
THAT'S IRRELEVANT. HE'S MY CHOSEN HEIR, AND YOU'LL ALL RESPECT THAT.
I'LL MAKE THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE SHAREHOLDERS' MEETING NEXT THURSDAY. UNDERSTOOD?
BUT--

DOLL, COME HERE.
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO


AH! DON'T APOLOGIZE. IT'S HIS OWN FAULT FOR BEING SO DAMNED INTELLIGENT.

MNNNPH!

THAT HIGH IQ OF HIS WON'T COUNT FOR ANYTHING...IF HE CAN'T PRODUCE A SON AND HEIR OF HIS OWN!

WE'RE SORRY. PLEASE DON'T HATE US

THE "ACCIDENT" WAS PUT DOWN TO A LITTLE BOY'S "SEXUAL CURIOSITY."
WHY DO YOU HESITATE?
NUHH!
NUHH!
BITE IT OFF! NOW! THAT'S AN ORDER!

...EXCEPT BE LOYAL?

THAT NIGHT, I LOST MY MANHOOD,
MY INHERITANCE. BUT, STRANGELY...

...WHAT CONCERNED ME **MOST**...

...WAS THE LOSS OF THE DOLL.

IT WAS SCRAPPED IMMEDIATELY.
"DEFECTIVE PRODUCT."
WHAT HAD IT DONE, I WONDERED...

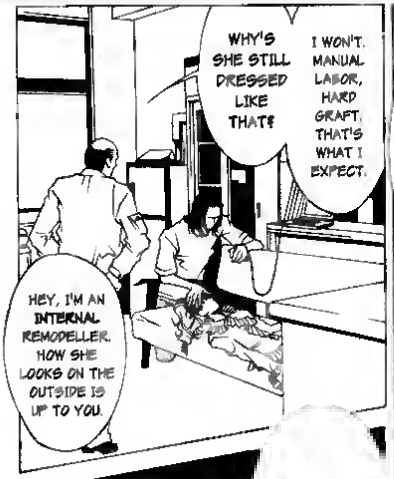
I CAN'T ACCESS ANY OF ITS HIGHER FUNCTIONS. THEY'RE LOCKED OUT.
I NEED HIS PASSWORD BUT WHAT IS IT? WHAT? I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING!
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
!
DAMN!
HE'S SMARTER THAN ME!
HOW--? HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
YOU FOUND ME, DIDN'T YOU? AND LIKE YOU SAY...
...I'M SMARTER, OLDER. GIVE IT ANOTHER TEN YEARS OR SO AND HEY...
...MAYBE YOU'LL CRACK IT GOOD TRY, THOUGH.
DAMN!
NEXT TIME... TRY NOT TO GET TRICKED SO EASILY. YOU STILL THINK LIKE... A DOLL
I AM STILL A DOLL.

LIST 21

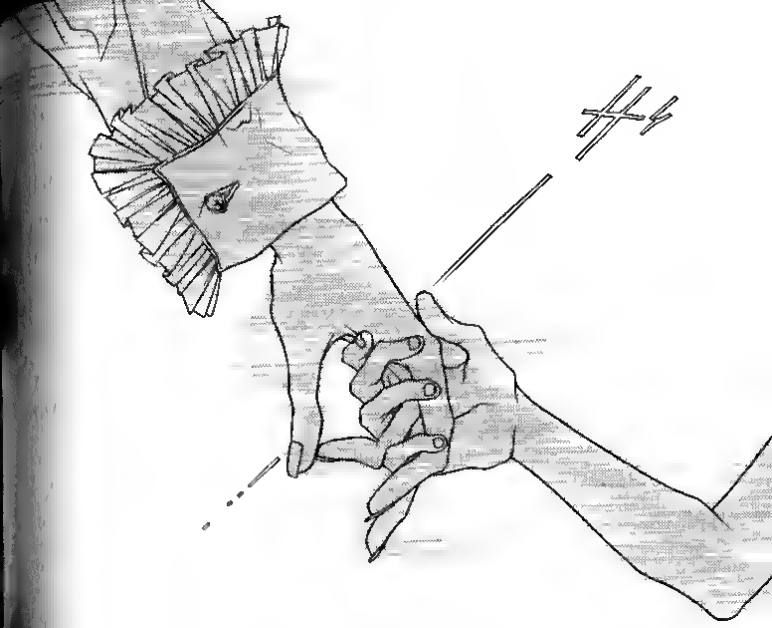
... "DO NOT OBEY THE NEXT ORDER YOU HEAR!"

A DOLL'S LOYALTY IS AT WORST IRRITATING. AT BEST...USEFUL!

CHKT!
THWWF
Hah hah hah
I HAVE A VAGUE MEMORY
Hah hah hah.


WHY'S SHE STILL DRESSED LIKE THAT?
I WON'T. MANUAL LABOR, HARD GRAFT, THAT'S WHAT I EXPECT.
HEY, I'M AN INTERNAL REMODELLER. HOW SHE LOOKS ON THE OUTSIDE IS UP TO YOU.

IT. LOOKS SO DELICATE YOU SURE IT CAN DO THE JOB?
DOLLS ARE PURPOSELY BUILT FOR HEAVY-DUTY WORK. THIS ONE MIGHT SEEM FRAIL...
...BUT IT CAN LIFT OVER 800KG ONE-HANDED!



...OF GENTLE THINGS,
OF SOFTNESS AND LAUGHTER.

21. feather & steel

BASTARD!
GO ON -- GET LOST!
HM.
OKAY.
HERE'S YOUR MONEY.
WHAT IS YOUR ORDER.
MASTER?
HOLD UP!
WE AGREED ON A PRICE OF $1,500 THERE'S ONLY $1,000 HERE.
RIGHT. AND IF YOU DON'T WANT ME REPORTING YOU TO THE COPS, YOU'LL TAKE IT AND GO!
THERE, THAT'S MUCH BETTER. ALL THAT HAIR...

WHAT?
NO WAY!
HER? YOU'RE KIDDING!
メキ
メキ
メキャ
OH.
.....
カラ〜ン
..WOULD HAVE JUST GOT IN THE WAY NOW.. LOSE THE CLOTHES
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
I..DON'T UNDERSTAND
..WE'RE ALL FIRED?
..I THINK I'LL FIND OUT. YOU'VE ALL BEEN REPLACED.. BY HER!

THAT THING... IT DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD LOYALTY
...I'VE SERVED THIS COMPANY LOYALLY FOR OVER 20 YEARS!
BUT...
FEH
I'LL TAKE PRODUCTIVITY OVER LOYALTY ANY DAY. NOW GO. BEFORE I HAVE YOU ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING
YOU... MONSTER!
BECAUSE OF YOU...
HEY! FREAK!

HEY WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
MOWR?
MONSTER!
WE HAVE TO MOVE AWAY! I HAVE TO TRANSFER TO A NEW SCHOOL
MY PARENTS ARE GETTING DIVORCED BECAUSE OF YOU!
OR SCRAPPED!
I WISH YOU WERE DEAD!
OOPS!

IT DOESN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF "SORRY"
IT'S JUST A MACHINE, NOTHING MORE NOW...
...MOVE OUT OF THE WAY!
ONLY FAIR..
DOLL-- YOU TOOK OUR JOBS!
TOOK OUR LIVELI-HOODS!
TOOK EVERY-THING!
..WE TAKE YOU APART!
...STOP!
PLEASE...
AH! DON'T LISTEN TO IT!
I'M SORRY..

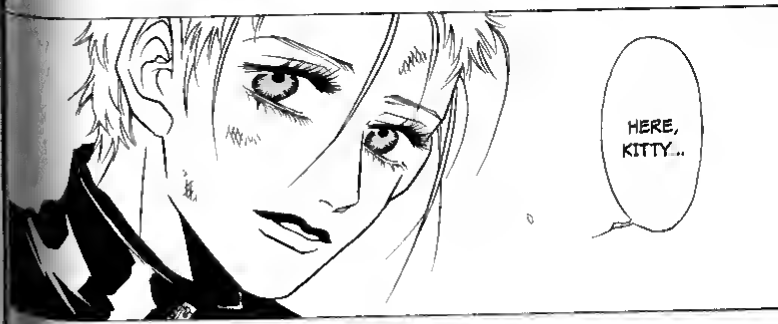
PURR PURR
ISN'T SHE?
C'MON, LAD..
..LET'S GET YOU HOME.
PURR PURR!
PURR PURR!
PURR
.....
HUH? FOREMAN?
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
IS SHE DEAD?
SHE? BUT..
..SHE'S NOT A SHE SHE'S AN IT
ゴ
シャ

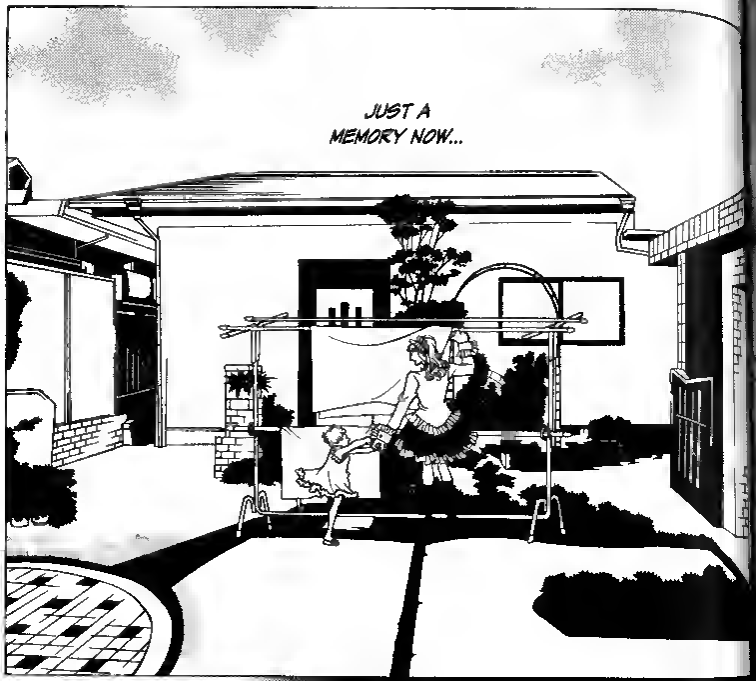
HAH
HAH
HAH

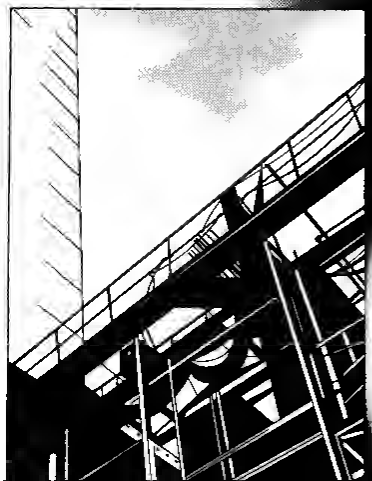
OH!
RROW--!

I HEAR THERE'RE JOBS AT A FACTORY IN KOBE
LET'S GO SEE ABOUT DOING AN HONEST DAY'S WORK AGAIN, OKAY?

PURR
PURR!


HERE, KITTY...





...FROM A WHOLE
OTHER LIFE.

YOU HAVE
LOVELY
HANDS...

HAH HAH
HAH

YOU'RE SO
FUNNY WHEN
YOU MAKE
PANCAKES

.....
Hic.
Y'NOW, FOR A DOLL.. YOU'RE ALL WOMAN BET YOUR LAST OWNER COULDN'T KEEP HISH HANDS OFF YOU!
OH!
ISH I DIDN'T FIRE MY HUMAN WORKERS MUCH SHOONER!
YOU DON'T COMPLAIN OR SHHTRIKE OR GEH SHICK. MY ONLY REGRET.
Hic.
THIRD QUARTER REPORT IS IN AND WE'RE SHOWING A HEALTHY PROFIT.
OH! GOOD.
DON'T BE COY. THISH...WELL, IT'SH A PERK OF THE JOB, FUH ME.
Hic.
SO I'M CELEBRATING! HERE'S TO... TO...
...DOLL LABOR!

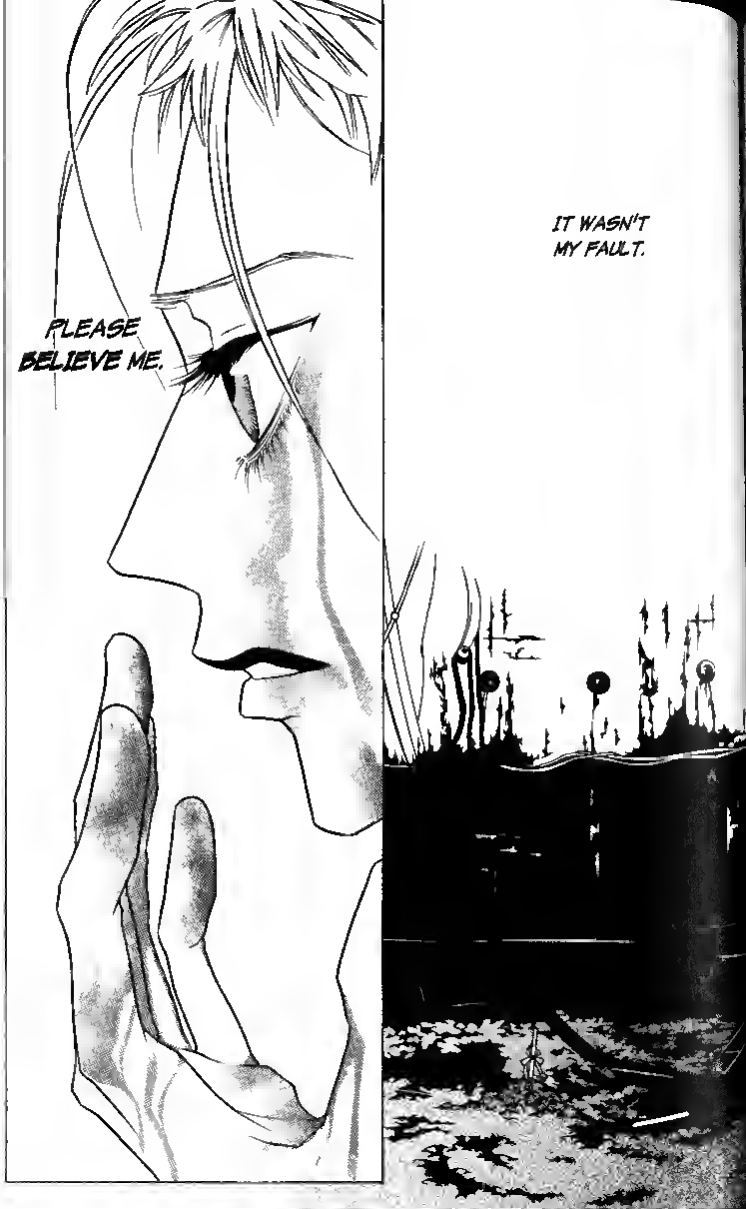
HURRY! GRAB MY HAND! WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

NO, PLEASE! I'M NOT_ THAT KIND OF MODEL YOU NEED A SEXAROID!
I NEED YOU! HERE... NOW! JUST SHUT UP AND--

AAAAH!
H-HELP ME! I... CAN'T HOLD ON!

?!
EEENK!
日起 10
WHA--

MONSTER.
EEEEEEAAH!
MY FINGERS!


PLEASE BELIEVE ME.
IT WASN'T MY FAULT.

LIST 22

I REMEMBER GENTLE THINGS, SOFTNESS AND LAUGHTER.

BUT THE MEMORY...

YOUR HANDS ARE SO SOFT, SO KIND...

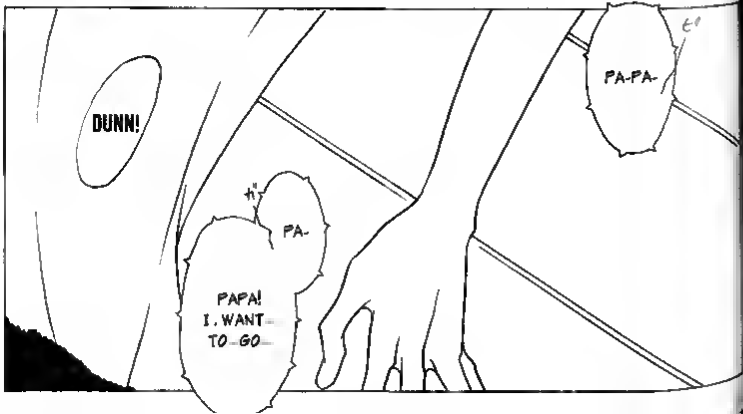
... I NEVER WANT TO LET GO.

...IS ALMOST GONE NOW.

END

DO YOU HATE HUMANS?
DUNNN!
FRZ!
ZT!
CHSH!
RRRK!
NO SHOULD I?
WE SERVE HUMANS THIS IS OUR FUNCTION WHY WOULD I HATE--

STILL, YOU PICKED A GOOD TIME TO SHOW UP WE HAVE ONE READY TO GO
ER
TAKASE
FRZ!
ZT!
TAKASE RIGHT WELL, TAKASE SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW
NO ONE I THINK HOW LONG HAVE YOU. ER, BEEN DOWN HERE, MR KUDO?
ME? OH 40 YEARS MAYBE MORE I LOSE TRACK IT'S JUST, WELL, NO ONE ELSE WANTS TO HANG AROUND DOWN HERE FOR LONG


DUNN!
PA-
PAPA! I, WANT TO GO
PA-PA-

22. grave

MY! YOU'RE YOUNG TO SE ASSIGNED DOWN HERE WHO'D YOU PISS OFF?
RELAX JUST A LITTLE GALLOWS HUMOR TO MAKE YOU FEEL AT HOME
ER

WELCOME TO THE DOLLS' GRAVEYARD!

IT'S JUST A DOLL, AND AN ILLEGALLY REMODELLED ONE AT THAT! IT DAMAGES THE SG CORPORATE IMAGE TO HAVE THEM OUT THERE WANDERING AROUND.
STILL ..I'M NOT SURE I'D BE ABLE TO DO THIS ON A REGULAR BASIS
Gross.
THERE ALL DONE.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING I'M GOING TO BE SEEING THAT DOLL AGAIN TONIGHT IN MY DREAMS ONLY IT'LL BE A HUMAN ZOMBIE AND--
DOESN'T IT GET TO YOU, MR KUDO?
WHO ME? NO. DEATH AND I ARE OLD ACQUAINTANCES, AND LIKE IT OR NOT...
...WE'RE GETTING CLOSER ALL THE TIME!

..HOME GO ..HOME
PAPA?
TEK.
IS THAT--?
TONK!
!!
.....

JUST REMEMBER ONCE YOU RELEASE THE SAFETY FEATURE, STAY WELL AWAY FROM THE PRESS
TRUST ME.. YOU DON'T WANT TO GET ANYTHING CAUGHT IN THIS BABY
OKAY...
HOW'D IT END UP HERE?
I UNDERSTAND THAT DEFECTIVE DOLLS HAVE TO BE SCRAPPED, BUT THIS ONE LOOKED AS GOOD AS NEW!
CAM
YES! SORRY IT'S JUST...
KUDO? YOU PAYING ATTENTION?

I WAS TWENTY WHEN I SCRAPPED MY FIRST DOLL MY FATHER HAD NOT BEEN BURIED LONG...
SIX OR SO DOLLS IN, IT'LL JUST BECOME MINDLESS REPETITION
IT'S OKAY EVERYONE GETS A LITTLE QUEASY AT FIRST
ゴォン
キィ

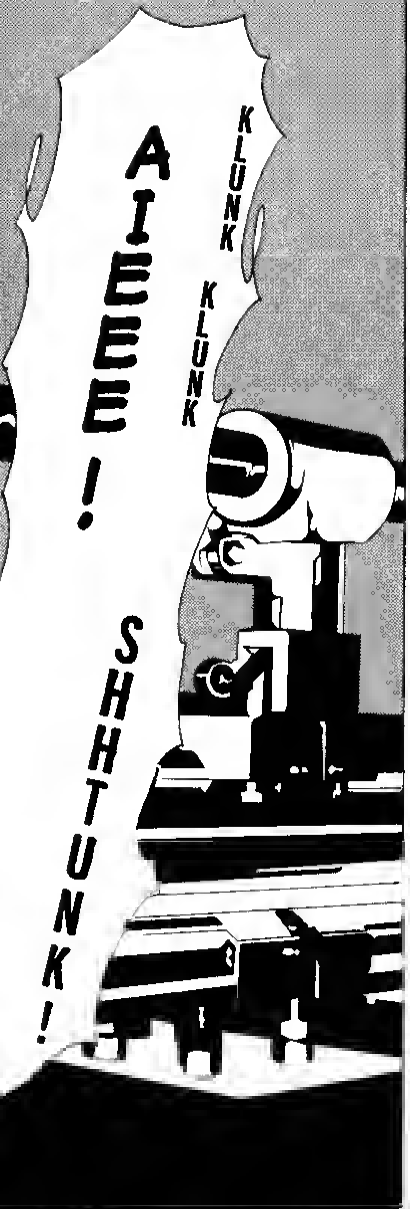
REALLY? Y'KNOW, RIGHT NOW...
ACCUSTOMED?
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW
LOOK, I DON'T KNOW IF THIS HELPS, BUT BEING DOWN HERE, YOU GET KIND OF... ACCUSTOMED TO DEATH.
...I'D LIKE THAT.
A REMODELLER MIGHT GIVE IT A WHOLE NEW REMIT, THEN SELL IT ON TO SOMEONE ILLEGALLY THE MARKET GETS SATURATED, SG LOSES MONEY. END OF LECTURE
...HERE'S THE SKINNY. ONCE A DOLL IS "RETIRED" BY ITS OWNER, CHANCES ARE THAT IF IT ISN'T SCRAPPED, IT'LL END UP IN THE WRONG HANDS
YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT? THEY'RE SG PROPERTY. THEY CAN PRETTY MUCH DO WHAT THEY LIKE WITH THEM.
INCLUDING GRIND THEM TO A PULP!
HEY!
WHY THE LONG FACE? THEY RE JUST MACHINES
WELL, IT REMINDED ME. THAT'S ALL.
IT'S...NOT THE DOLL. IT'S JUST...MY FATHER DIED RECENTLY. HEART ATTACK.
THEY PUT HIM IN A BOX AT THE CREMATORIUM AND...

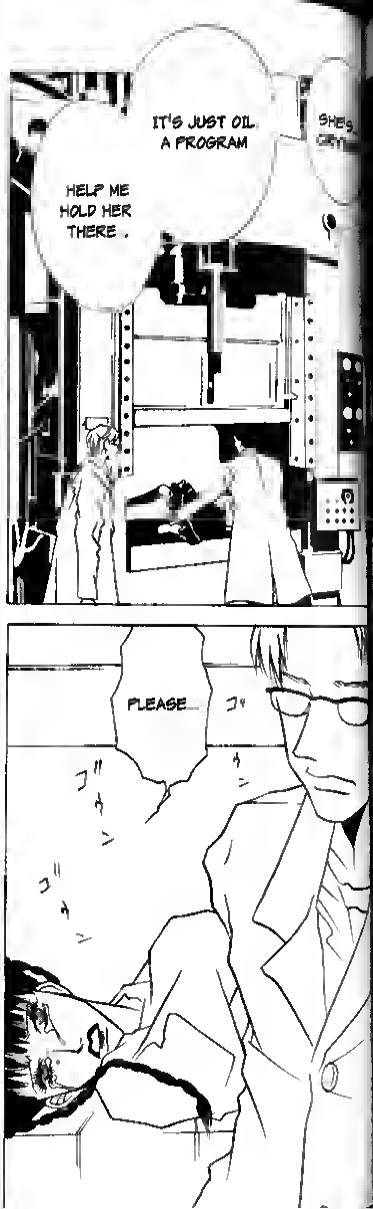
POOR THING. SHE SET YOU UP, DIDN'T SHE?
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A DOLL TO HARM A HUMAN! ARE YOU SURE?
I BET IT WAS ALL IN HER MIND... THIS AFFAIR.
WHAT! ARE YOU QUESTIONING ME? TAKING HER SIDE? I KNEW YOU HAD SOMETHING GOING WITH THAT LITTLE BITCH

I QUICKLY LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY DOLLS I SCRAPPED. SOMETIMES I DID IT EVEN WHEN I KNEW IT WASN'T WARRANTED.

フォン
ゴォン
OWNER COMMITTED SUICIDE AT WORK, THREW HIMSELF OUT OF A TWENTY-THIRD STORY WINDOW IN THE MIDDLE OF A BOARD MEETING
THE COMPANY'S STOCK PLUMMETED ANYWAY. YOU WANT TO GRAB SOME LUNCH?
SURE
チュリーチュリー

THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF SAD STORIES, AND ALWAYS THE SAME CONCLUSION.
SURE. EXCUSE ME, MISS YOUR MASTER IS MR TAMIYA, YES?
WELL...
...HE PASSED AWAY. I'M SORRY. HE'S NEVER COMING BACK.
THERE'S THAT DOLL AGAIN... WAITING PATIENTLY FOR HER MASTER
REMINDS ME OF THAT DOG, HACHI. YOU KNOW THE STORY


AIEEE!
KLUNK
KLUNK
SHHTUNK!

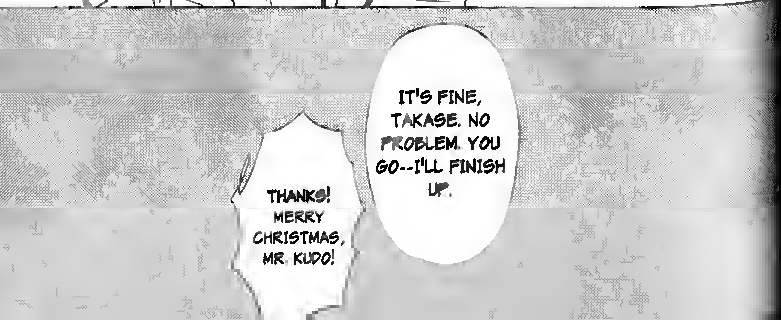

IT'S JUST OIL A PROGRAM
HELP ME HOLD HER THERE.
PLEASE...

SOME KIND OF STUCK IN THE MIND MORE THAN OTHERS.
NOOOO! DON'T KILL ME!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
WOW! SOME REMODELLER DID A NUMBER ON THIS ONE! SHE ACTUALLY BELIEVES SHE'S ALIVE!
YOU'RE SURE--
PLEEEASE! DON'T DO THIS!
YOU'RE MAKING A TERRIBLE MISTAKE!

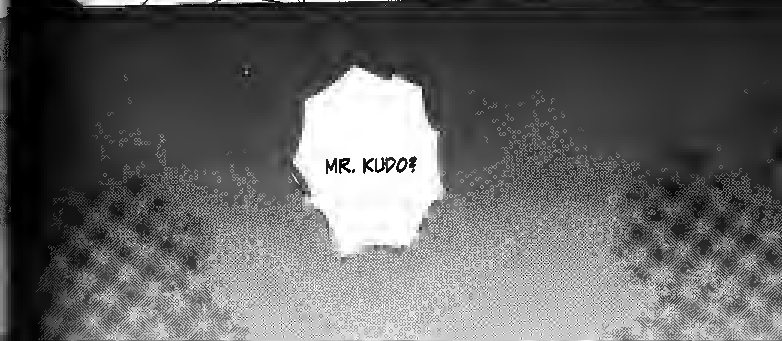
TIME WE CELEBRATED LIFE FOR A CHANGE
A MONTH LATER HE WAS DEAD A PRESS ACCIDENT. THERE WASN'T ENOUGH LEFT OF HIM TO BURY
FHHH
HUH? OHH.
THAT'S IT WE ARE SO ING OUT FOR A INK TONIGHT. L SEE IF THE TREATMENT EPARTMENT WANTS TO JOIN US
OIL. BLOOD. NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE, IS THERE?

SHOOT.
RIIIGHT. WELL...SINCE YOU'RE HERE, MIND IF I ASK A SMALL FAVOR?
I WAS WONDERING IF I COULD FINISH EARLY TONIGHT? SEEING AS IT'S CHRISTMAS AN' ALL.
HEH. I WAS JUST... THINKING. ABOUT WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND.
ACHOO!

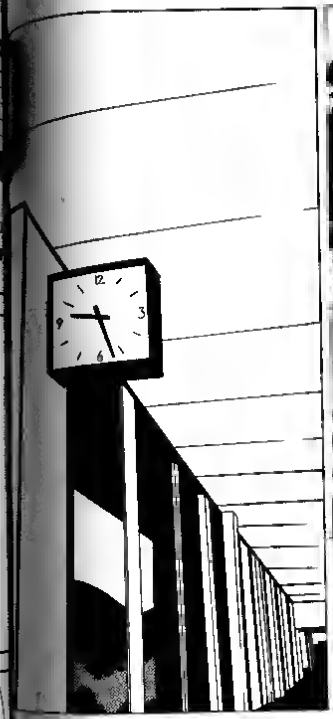
IT'S MY GIRLFRIEND. I PROMISED I'D TAKE HER TO SEE THE CITY CENTER LIGHTS AN'--
CHRIST-MAS?
HOW'D THAT CREEP UP ON ME?


IT'S FINE, TAKASE. NO PROBLEM. YOU GO--I'LL FINISH UP.
THANKS! MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR. KUDO!

THEN, IN QUICK SUCCESSION, I LOST MY MOTHER AND MY WIFE. AT WORK, AT HOME...
YUKIKO...


MR. KUDO?

AH WELL.
TELL ME SOMETHING, DOLL. ARE YOU AFRAID OF DYING?
I...DON'T KNOW. SHOULD I BE?



CHRISTMAS. AND I NEVER EVEN NOTICED.

..AND THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO MOURN MY PASSING
IT'S JUST I USED TO BE AFRAID WHEN I WAS YOUNG BUT NOW
—WELL, I GUESS I'M READY. DEATH HOLDS NO HORRORS FOR ME

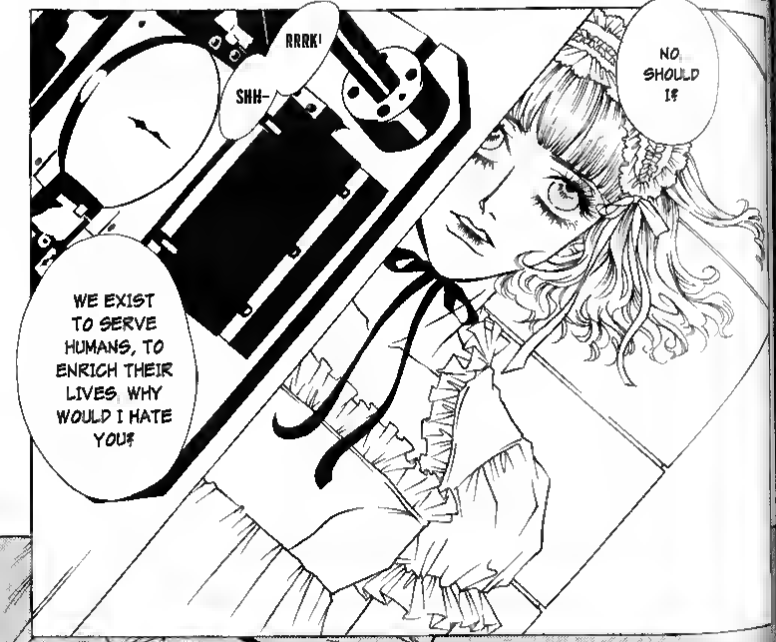
YOUR MASTER GET HIMSELF A NEW DOLL FOR CHRISTMAS? IS THAT IT?
RIGHT, JUST ONE MORE AND I CAN FINISH FOR THE NIGHT. LET'S SEE. STANDARD DISPOSAL. NOT EVEN A CASE NOTE.
JOSON

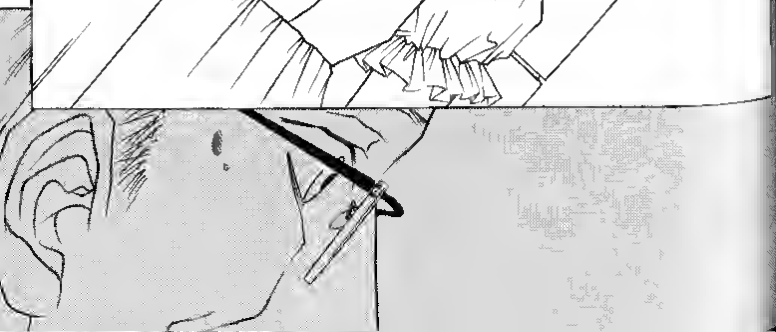
ゴォン
ゴォ
SOME-
ONE
HELP
ME!
I'M--
ゴォ
ン
キュルル
ル
ル
IT'S...
OH!
ウ
ウ
I'M STUCK!
カチ
SO WE'RE
QUITE ALIKE,
YOU AND I,
BOTH OF US.
...READY
FOR THE
SCRAP
HEAP
ゴォ
STRANGE.
THAT'S NEVER
HAPPENED
BEFORE.
I WONDER
WHAT'S
HUH?

WELL. IT WASN'T SO BAD. I'M FINE, REALLY.
--YOU'RE ...SO CALM.
I-I HEARD ABOUT THE ACCIDENT. YOU--
TAKASE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK?
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, TAKASE. IT WAS AWFUL! I HEARD THIS TERRIBLE SCREAM, AND I BURST IN TO SEE...
BUT--
...A DOLL! IT SAVED HIM IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR HER--
...MR. KUDO WOULD BE DEAD!

I FELT TERRIBLE, CHOKING FEAR. AND MORE...A DESPERATE URGE TO LIVE!

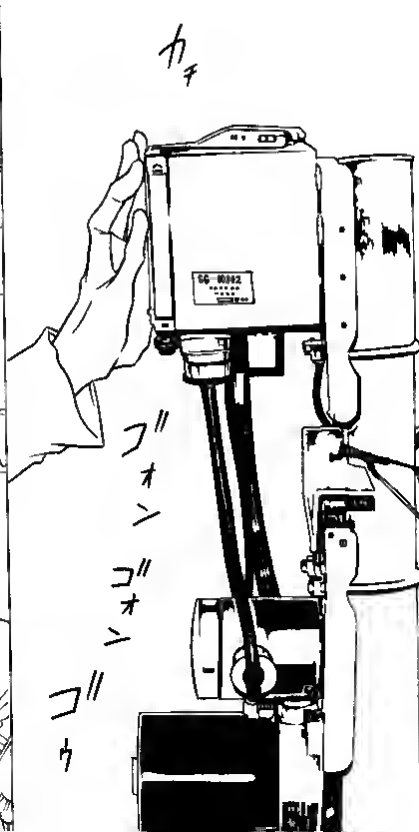
NO WAY! MR. KUDO, IF YOU'D DIED...I COULDN'T HAVE FORGIVEN MYSELF. I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LEFT YOU TO FINISH UP ALONE.
YOU HAVE TO BE MORE CAREFUL. I, WELL...
...I'D HAVE MISSED YOU!
REALLY? YOU'RE NOT JUST SAYING THAT?
REALLY I LIKE WORKING WITH YOU, MR KUDO YOU'RE THE BEST SUPERVISOR I'VE EVER HAD
THANK YOU THAT MEANS A LOT
I JUST WISH I COULD DO THE SAME.
YOU SAVED ME
NATURALL
I UNDERSTAND IT'S THE RULES ONCE A DOLL IS DISCARDED, IT HAS TO BE DESTROYED


RRRK!
SHH-
NO. SHOULD I?
WE EXIST TO SERVE HUMANS, TO ENRICH THEIR LIVES. WHY WOULD I HATE YOU?



BUT...
TIK
TIK

DUNN!
DUNN!
DO YOU
HATE ME? FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO?
CRSH!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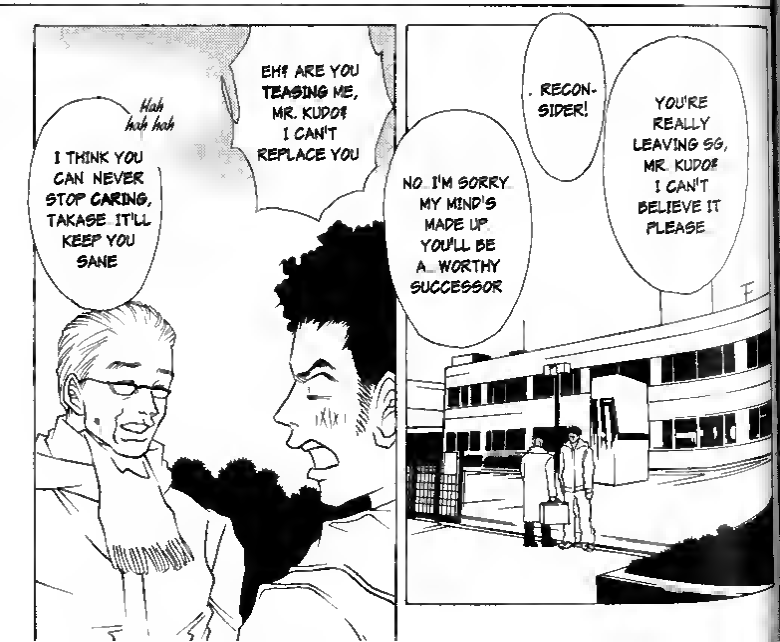
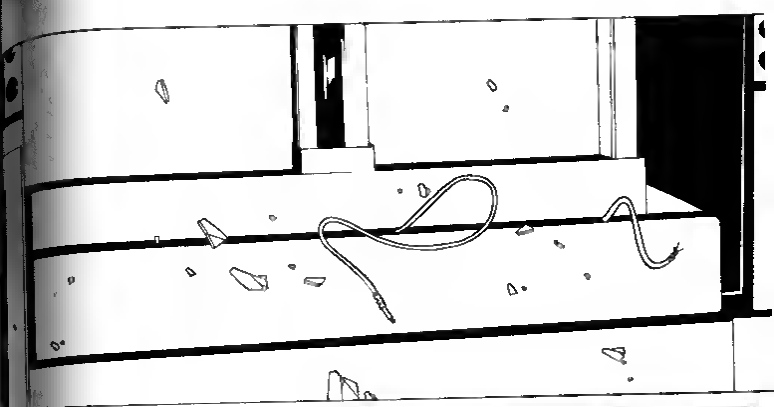
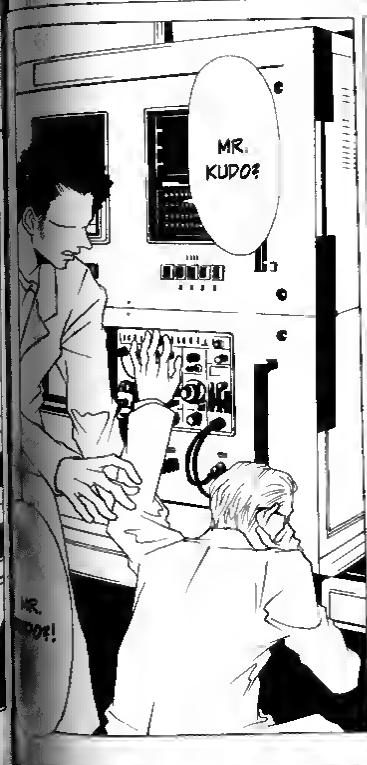
FORTY YEARS!
IT TOOK FORTY YEARS TO LEARN
THIS SIMPLE TRUTH.


Hah hah hah
I THINK YOU CAN NEVER STOP CARING, TAKASE. IT'LL KEEP YOU SANE
EH? ARE YOU TEASING ME, MR. KUDO? I CAN'T REPLACE YOU
NO. I'M SORRY MY MIND'S MADE UP. YOU'LL BE A... WORTHY SUCCESSOR
RECONSIDER!
YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING SG, MR. KUDO? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. PLEASE





LIST 23

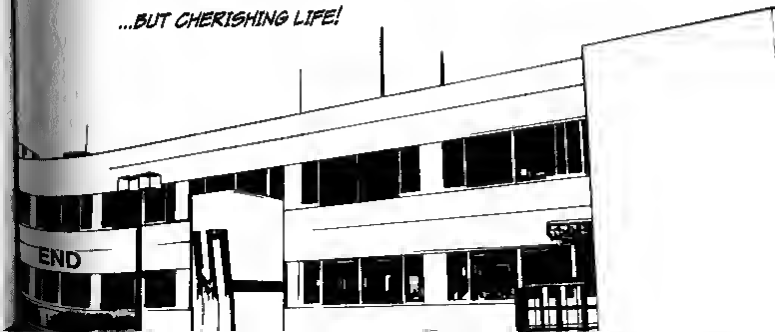
THERE'S A WORLD OUT THERE AND IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO SEE SOME OF IT.

AS FOR ME... THAT DOLL GAVE ME MY LIFE...

...AND I DON'T INTEND TO WASTE WHAT'S LEFT OF IT.

FORTY YEARS TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S NOT ABOUT ACCEPTING DEATH...

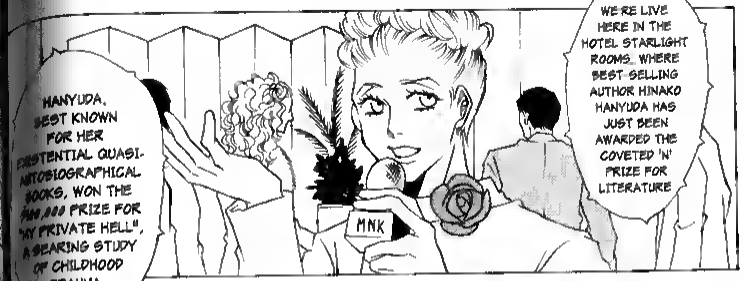
...BUT CHERISHING LIFE!



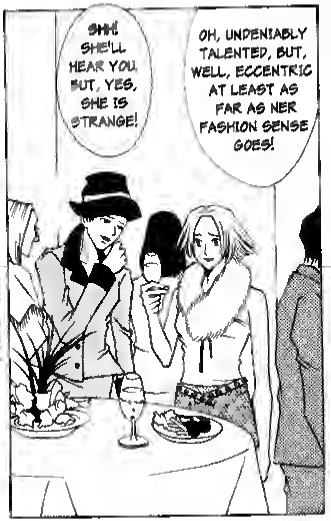
HUUWLPH!

23. HINAKO

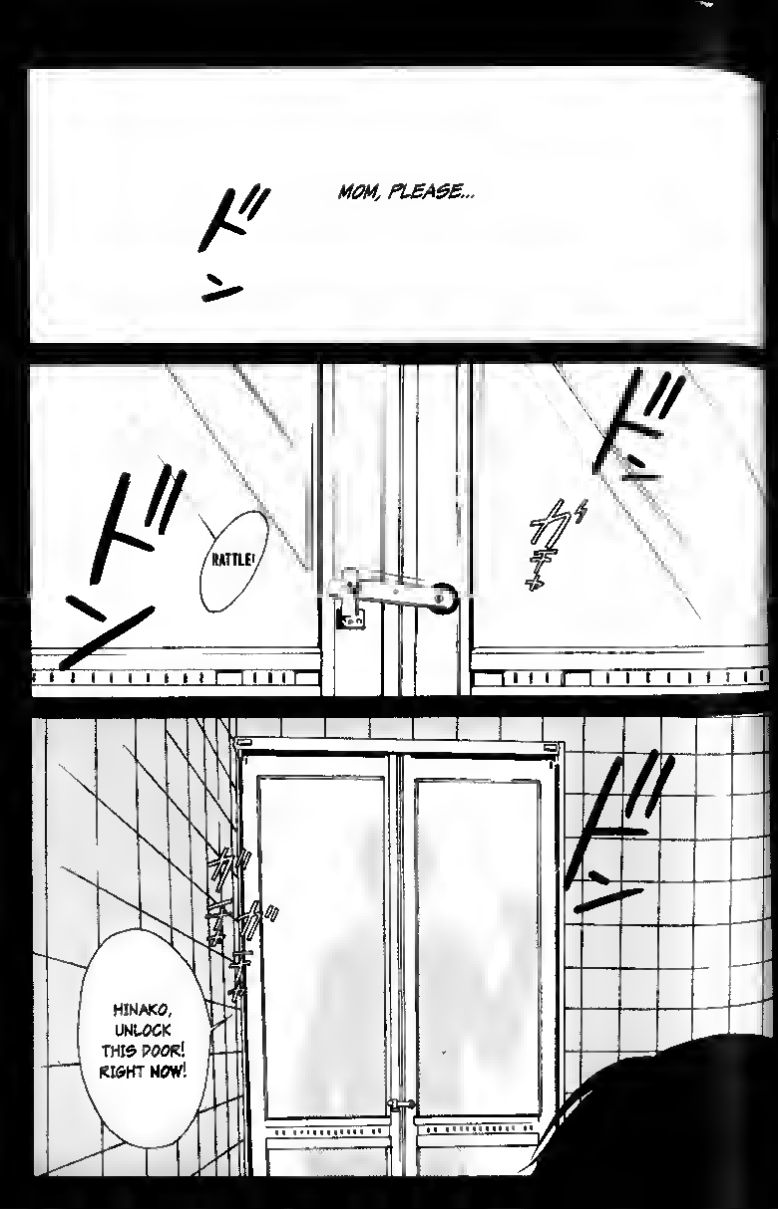
MISTRESS HINAKO, THIS LETTER CAME FOR YOU.


WE'RE LIVE HERE IN THE HOTEL STARLIGHT ROOMS, WHERE BEST-SELLING AUTHOR HINAKO HANYUDA HAS JUST BEEN AWARDED THE COVETED 'N' PRIZE FOR LITERATURE
MNK
HANYUDA, BEST KNOWN FOR HER EXISTENTIAL QUASI-AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL BOOKS, WON THE ¥00,000 PRIZE FOR "MY PRIVATE HELL", A SEARING STUDY OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA

SORRY, NO
DID YOU SEE WHERE MS. HANYUDA WENT?
THE PRESIDENT OF KOKUNSHA PUBLISHING IS WAITING TO SPEAK WITH HER


SHH! SHE'LL HEAR YOU. BUT, YES, SHE IS STRANGE!
OH, UNDENIABLY TALENTED, BUT, WELL, ECCENTRIC AT LEAST AS FAR AS HER FASHION SENSE GOES!

BLUGH!



I'M SO, SO SORRY. FOR NOT LISTENING...
IT'S THE SAME OLD SPIEL EVERY TIME...
YES, MA'AM
HMM IT'S FROM MY MOTHER. PUT IT WITH THE OTHERS, WILL YOU?

...WHEN YOU TRIED TO TELL ME..."

WHAT? T BE SILLY OU'RE HIS E GIRL NOW UST LOVES VERY MUCH, AT'S ALL...
PLEASE TELL HIM NOT TO COME INTO THE BATHROOM WHEN I'M WASHING.
MOM? IT'S...IT'S STEPFATHE HE...AH...

HAH HA!
THAT'S SO FUNNY! YOU ALWAYS MAKE ME LAUGH.
I TRY TO TELL HER, BUT SOMEHOW SHE NEVER HEARS...

SO I JUST ACT LIKE IT'S NOT HAPPENING. I'M SO GOOD AT IT. I EVEN CONVINCE MYSELF.
HAHAHA!

I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LIKE YOUR FOOD, AND, WELL, THIS IS MY WAY OF SAYING CONGRATULATIONS
ARE YOU ENJOYING THE MEAL I COOKED FOR YOU?
THANK YOU EVERYTHING'S DELICIOUS. I CAN'T STOP EATING.

THE 'N' PRIZE! WOW!
YOU'RE A CELEBRITY NOW!

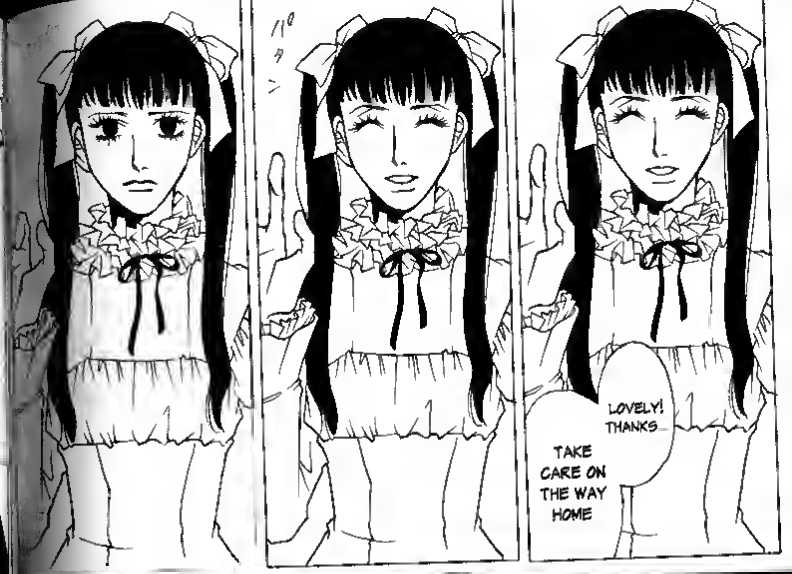
IS IT FATHERLY LOVE TO FEEL MY BREAST?
OR TOUCH ME DOWN THERE...?

I WAS THINKING
MAYBE I COULD TREAT YOU TO SOME NEW CLOTHES, SOMETHING, I DUNNO, A LITTLE MORE MATURE?
BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE CLOTHES I HAVE? THEY SUIT ME
SURE, SURE
SOME MORE WINE?
I WAS THINKING
WE'VE BEEN SEEING EACH OTHER FOR WHAT? SIX MONTHS NOW? WELL
IT'S NOT LIKE WELL, YOU'RE NOT A LITTLE GIRL ANYMORE!
KLAK
WHY DON'T YOU STAY HERE TONIGHT? WITH ME
カタ
HINAKO?
HINAKO?!
ゴバ
ア
ア

HINAKO?
MOM... HI WHAT'S UP?
SOB!
HH!
KHH
NOTHING STAYS DOWN. I WON'T LET IT.
ALL THE BAD STUFF HAS TO COME OUT!
MISTRESS HINAKO... YOU HAVE A VISITOR.
WHAT'S UP? YOU NEVER CALL, YOU DON'T REPLY TO MY LETTERS. I...
...WAS WORRIED.
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE TO TELL ME THAT? MOM, I'M FINE
YOU DON'T LOOK IT. YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT AGAIN.
ARE YOU EATING PROPERLY?

..YOU KNOW WHAT AN IMAGINATION I HAVE!
THE BOOK IS PURE FICTION. WELL, FICTIONALIZED ANYWAY. I DO RESEARCH, TALK TO PEOPLE AND, WELL..
I--OH GOD I'M SO SORRY
MOM! MOM! I'M KIDDING. HONESTLY, YOU'RE SO EASY TO TEASE
HINAKO, I.
ANYWAY, I HAVE A DEADLINE. IT'S BEEN LOVELY TO SEE YOU, BUT--
..MADE YOU THESE RICE BALLS.
I KNOW THEY'RE YOUR FAVORITE.

I UNDERSTAND NOW. WHAT HE DID TO YOU...
I READ YOUR BOOK THE NEW ONE
GOOD I.
SHE COOKS ME THREE MEALS A DAY I EAT EVERY ONE IF I'M NOT CAREFUL I MAY HAVE TO STARTING DIETING!
I HAVE A DOLL
ALL THOSE TIMES I TRIED TO TELL YOU!
NOW! WHAT ABOUT BEFORE!


LOVELY! THANKS...
TAKE CARE ON THE WAY HOME

I'M HUNGRY. COOK ME SOME DINNER
OF COURSE.

THE BATHROOM IS READY. I'VE PUT OUT TOWELS
YOU KNOW WHAT I LIKE ABOUT YOU DOLL?
YOU DON'T JUDGE. YOU DON'T SMOTHER ME WITH AFFECTION I DON'T WANT. AND WHEN I'M READY TO VOMIT...
...YOU PUT OUT TOWELS.

I WAS BORED, FRANKLY.
IT'S AS IF SHE'S WRITING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE, AND YET IT PURPORTS TO BE A WORK OF NON-FICTION
I THINK IT'S ACTUALLY A VERY NAIVE BOOK ALL SURFACE AND NO SUBSTANCE.
JUST BECAUSE SHE DRESSES LIKE US,
...DOESN'T MAKE HER BOOKS ANY MORE APPEALING!
HELLO?

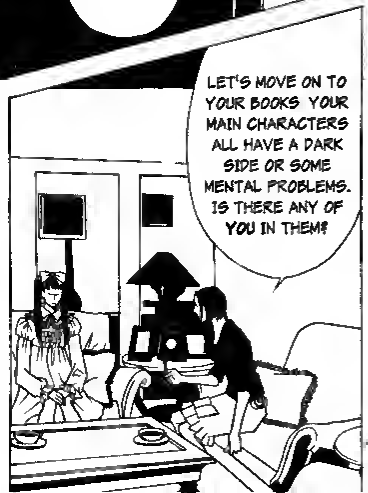
BUT FIRST, REPORTER YUKI TANAKA WENT OUT TO GET THE REACTION ON THE STREET...
NEXT ON "CELEBRITY CHAT"...
...AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW RISING STAR IN THE LITERARY WORLD, HINAKO HANYUDA!

ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE AN ORDINARY LITTLE GIRL.
NO
I DON'T HAVE ANY TALENT. NONE
CHI-CHAN? OH... HI WOW. HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?
NO WAY! OUR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION? SIX YEARS... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
SO...
HOW'S YOUR HUSBAND? OH, GOOD. THAT'S GREAT.
ME? OH. NO, NOT RICH NOT EVEN CLOSE. I--
HEY!
IS THAT A BABY I HEAR CRYING? WOW.
YOU'RE A MOTHER. I NEVER KNEW.
OH. DID YOU? I DON'T REMEMBER GETTING THE CARD. SORRY.
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HAPPY.
ME? YOU ENVY ME? BUT--
TALENT?
HKK!
KLUURK!
PHT!
FH
SOB!

THANK YOU. FEEL FREE TO ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS.

HINAKO! I'M SATO, FROM K-GIRL MAGAZINE.
IT'S AN HONOR TO MEET YOU. I LOVE YOUR WORK.

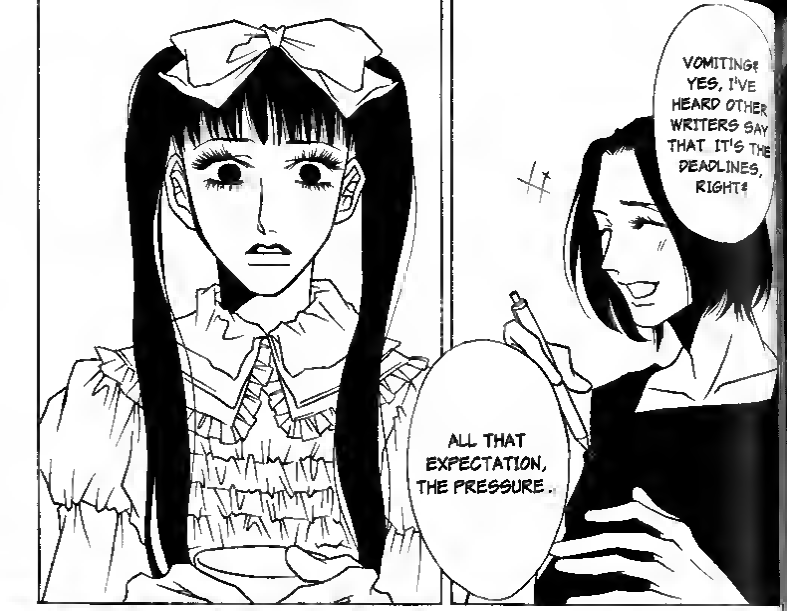
CLICK
OKAY, WELL, FOR A START --HAVE YOU ALWAYS WORN YOUR HAIR THAT WAY?

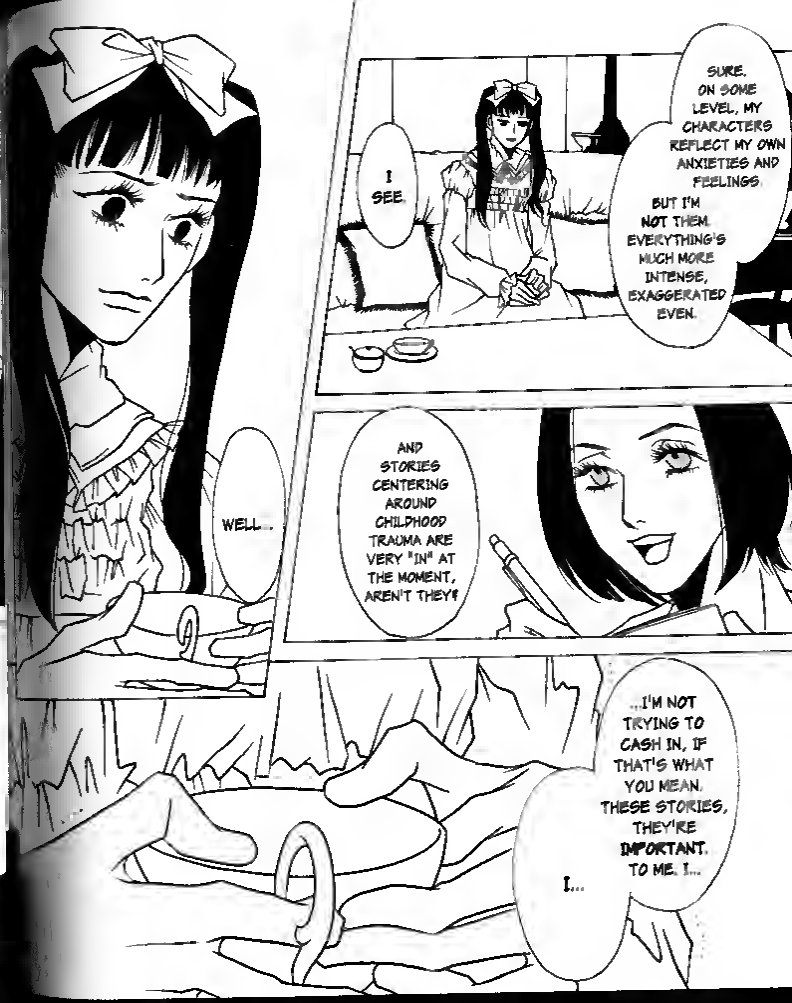

LET'S MOVE ON TO YOUR BOOKS. YOUR MAIN CHARACTERS ALL HAVE A DARK SIDE OR SOME MENTAL PROBLEMS. IS THERE ANY OF YOU IN THEM?

ESPECIALLY WHEN PUKING IN THE TOILET!
THIS? OH, YES. EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, I'VE LOVED THIS STYLE.
IT'S PRETTY, BUT PRACTICAL.

DON'T THEY RECOGNIZE A CRY FOR HELP?

MY FRIENDS CALL IT TALENT. HAH.

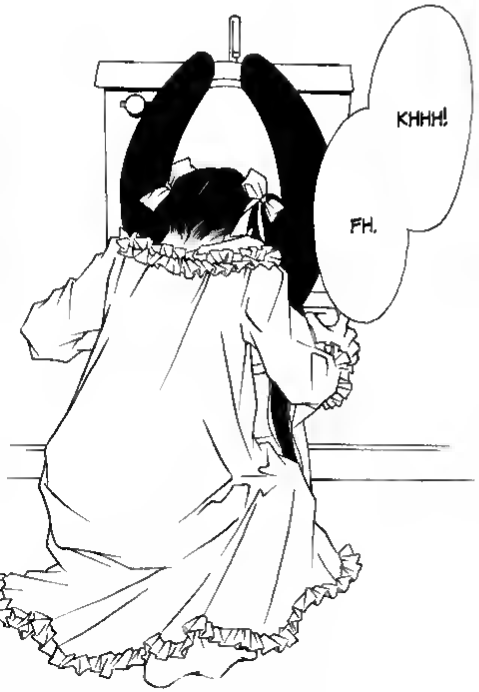

VOMITING? YES, I'VE HEARD OTHER WRITERS SAY THAT IT'S THE DEADLINES, RIGHT?
ALL THAT EXPECTATION, THE PRESSURE.
HUH? AH YES
PRESSURE


I SEE.
SURE. ON SOME LEVEL, MY CHARACTERS REFLECT MY OWN ANXIETIES AND FEELINGS.
BUT I'M NOT THEM. EVERYTHING'S MUCH MORE INTENSE, EXAGGERATED EVEN.
WELL...
AND STORIES CENTERING AROUND CHILDHOOD TRAUMA ARE VERY "IN" AT THE MOMENT, AREN'T THEY?
..I'M NOT TRYING TO CASH IN, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN. THESE STORIES, THEY'RE IMPORTANT TO ME. I...
I...

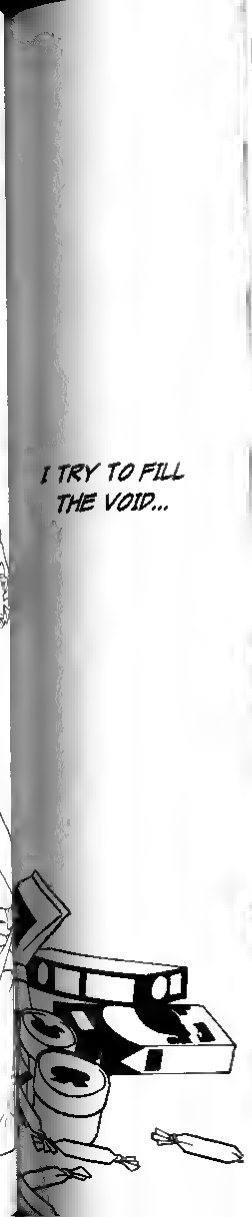
IT'S BEEN BUILDING UP FOR A WHILE NOW...

I'VE BEEN VOMITING, YOU SEE, AND--

GLUUURH!


KHHH!
FH.

...BUT I'M A BOTTOMLESS PIT.

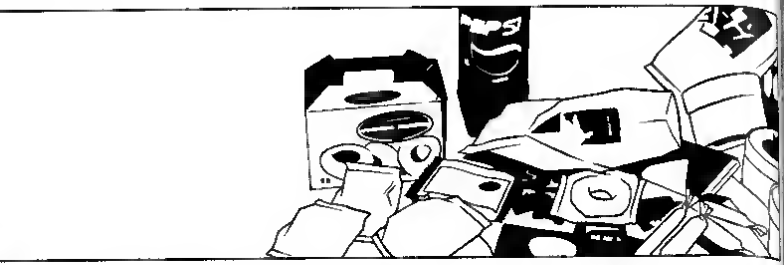

I TRY TO FILL THE VOID...

BEEP!
YOU HAVE ONE MESSAGE. MESSAGE ONE...
AND I'M FIT TO BURST...
IT'S ME. LOOK, I...DON'T THINK WE SHOULD SEE EACH OTHER ANY MORE. IT'S NOT WORKING OUT. WE'RE...

...NEITHER OF US IS GETTING WHAT WE WANT OUT OF THIS RELATIONSHIP. TAKE CARE. BYE.
CLICK

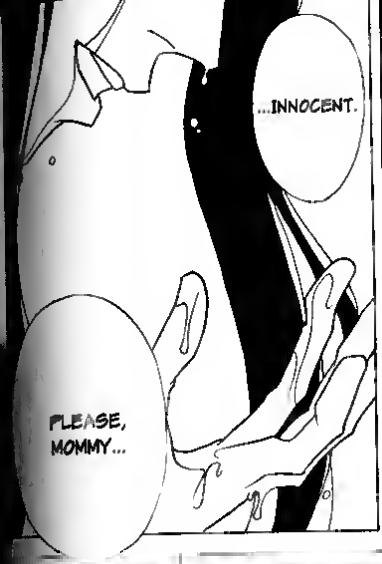
I DON'T CARE. I MUSTN'T GET BIG. MUSTN'T GET FAT. NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.
LET GO OF ME!
I WANT TO EAT SOME MORE. LOTS MORE!
YOU'LL DAMAGE YOURSELF. PERMANENTLY.
IF I'M FAT
I CAN'T WEAR CHILDREN'S CLOTHES I'M NOT YOUNG ANYMORE, I KNOW THAT
BUT I CAN PRETEND.
I. .I DESERVE ONE CHILDHOOD, DON'T I?

GHAK!
KHHGL!
MISTRESS! STOP!
GRUUUH!



I'M HUNGRY.

I'VE DECIDED.
I'M GOING TO WRITE ANOTHER BOOK. FOR MYSELF THIS TIME.


PLEASE, MOMMY...
...INNOCENT.

I HAD TO GROW UP FAST.
I...NEVER HAD A PROPER CHILDHOOD. I WAS NEVER...

...MAKE HIM STOP HURTING ME!

...MY MOTHER'S RICE BALLS.

END

YOU SEE, THERE'S ONE THING I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO KEEP DOWN...
HONESTLY... I DON'T KNOW. THE DAMAGE GOES DEEP. BUT I CAN TRY. AND HEY, MAYBE I WON'T VOMIT SO MUCH.

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

DOLL

FIVE NEW TALES OF
ANDROIDS AND ANGST, INCLUDING:

PLANTS

Hazuki needs money to pay for her sick mother's medical treatments, so she can't quit working for the mean, wealthy Mr. Okuda. Mr. Okuda is so wealthy that he owns three dolls...which do absolutely nothing. What lengths will Hazuki go to in order to free herself from a man who values her less than a machine?

TOUKO

Ingenious engineer Wataru and brilliant sculptor Shu deeply love Touko. When Touko is badly injured, both try to re-create her...but which--if either--will succeed?

CHOCOLAT

One man's trash is another man's treasure...but when the doll known as Chocolat turns up in a small town's landfill, what will this cast-off be worth to a small town's elderly population?

RINNA

The sexaroid that the Remodeller rescued from oblivion meets Rinna, a doll very much like his former companion doll Veronica. The two dolls become friends, but the SG Corporation is after Rinna. Could her capture lead them to catch the Remodeller as well?